

# Activity Risk Assessment

Name of activity, event, and location	Static Vertical Wall Hertfordshire Scout Activity Centres- Tolmers Activity Centre	Date of risk assessment	October 2025	Name of person doing this risk assessment	Katy Pearce EM HCSC Reviewed by: Doug Stack ACM HCSC
		Date of next review	October 2026		

Hazard- what could go wrong?	Who is at risk?	Assessment of risk	Control measures in place	Remaining risk using control measures
Injury caused by falling from height	Participants, Instructors	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Climbers are always clipped in by the trained instructor.</li> <li>All PPE correctly fitted at start of session and 'Good to go checks' are carried out before climbing.</li> <li>All instructors are trained and their competence is assessed.</li> <li>Auto belays always used and only trained instructor to attach/detach. Participants must be instructed at the start to not self-attach/detach.</li> <li>Additional soft mats are placed at the base of the climbing wall.</li> </ul>	Low
Participants becoming stuck	Participants	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instructors are trained in how to rescue participants.</li> <li>Instructors run their sessions, utilising 'challenge by choice' and 'comfort zone' offering options for participants to set their own level of challenge.</li> </ul>	Low
Unsupervised use of equipment	All	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Harnesses should not be left at the wall unattended.</li> <li>Wall must be fenced off and signs in place.</li> </ul>	Low
Failure due to weight	Participants	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Should an instructor have a concern of a customer's weight they shall ask them directly. Questioning will be done privately away from earshot of the group.</li> <li>If harnesses cannot fit participants correctly, they cannot participate in the activity.</li> </ul>	Low
Injury caused by entrapment i.e. hair	Participants	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instructors are positioned in direct supervision.</li> <li>'Good to go checks' are carried out by instructors prior to leaving the ground which include making sure their hair is tied back, loose clothing is tucked in and no open toed shoes.</li> </ul>	Low

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When descending participants are instructed to use their feet and hands to fend off from the wall minimising the chance of getting their harness caught.</li> <li>Helmets are not to be worn due to entrapment of helmet on climbing hold.</li> </ul>	
Injury from congestion	Participants, Leaders, Instructors	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instructors to ensure adequate space at base of wall whilst people ascend/descend.</li> </ul>	Low
Weather	Participants, Leaders, Instructors	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Centre Management Team/Lead Instructors must check weather at start of day and monitor throughout.</li> <li>Sessions must be stopped if wind speeds exceed 24mph, dependant on location.</li> <li>Sessions must be stopped immediately in thunder and lightning, and wait for 30 minutes after end of storm, before recommencing.</li> <li>Sessions to be cancelled in extreme hot or cold temperatures.</li> </ul>	Low
Uncontrolled groups of young people	Participants, Leaders, Instructors	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep all young people involved sitting down while not participating.</li> <li>Groups must be accompanied by a supervising adult.</li> <li>Group leader is responsible for managing the groups behaviour as stated in the booking terms and conditions.</li> </ul>	Low
Clients with additional abilities/pre- existing health issues	Participants, Leaders, Instructors	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Group leader must provide information about significant medical requirements and additional needs during the booking process. Instructors should discuss any needs with group leaders before the session is started.</li> <li>Lead instructors/management should review information and make any specific adaptations, determined with an individual risk assessment.</li> <li>Group leader is responsible for having access to essential medication i.e. inhalers.</li> <li>Participants with a history of injuries should be warned about the physical nature of taking part in this activity and have read the activity information before starting.</li> </ul>	Low
Novice participants	Participants, Leaders, Instructors	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ratio of 1 instructor and at least one competent adult per 15 participants.</li> <li>Safety briefing given at the start of the session to identify the specific hazards and safety rules to follow and reinforced throughout.</li> </ul>	Low

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Failure of equipment	Participants, Leaders, Instructors	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ADIPs forms must be completed daily when in use.</li> <li>Monthly equipment checks are carried out.</li> <li>Routine visual inspections completed and signed off at the start of the day and before each session by the activities team.</li> <li>If the activity equipment has a defect during use, the activity must be stopped immediately until repairs are completed, safety checks carried out and verified so activity can recommence. This must be recorded appropriately.</li> </ul>	Low
Poorly maintained activity area	Participants, Leaders, Instructors	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monthly activity area checks are carried out.</li> <li>Routine visual inspections will be completed and signed off at the start of the day and before each session by the activities team.</li> <li>If the activity area has a defect during use, the activity must be stopped immediately until repairs are completed, safety checks carried out and verified so activity can recommence. This must be recorded appropriately.</li> </ul>	Low
General Injury	Participants, Leaders, Instructors	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Groups are responsible for their own first aid. Groups must have someone adequately trained and have a suitable first aid kit.</li> <li>Additional first aid kit and defibrillator are available at reception/activity and key staff on duty to offer further support if required.</li> </ul>	Low