





Raft Building Element Specific Risk Assessment – Patshull Activity Centre

To use this risk assessment:






- 1) Read the Generic risk assessment, THEN
- 2) Read the Element specific risk assessment for the activity

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|  | Systematic Controls – these are processes or management actions. They happen outside of the instructed session time. |
|  | What to say – these are instructions or information that the instructor leading the session has to give to the participants. |
|  | What to do – these are actions that the instructor leading the session has to take either before or during the session. |
|  | What to check – these are the key things the instructor leading the session must confirm – they can be either physical things or participant understanding. |

Severity Factor & Remaining Risk Assessment













The following descriptors are used in each risk assessment. Note that a **MEDIUM** residual risk is used to show that a hazard requires dynamic risk assessment and deliberate management within the session by the instructor.

| Level | Severity Description | Residual Risk Description |
|--------|---|--|
| Low | Minor injury requiring no treatment, or simple first aid. | Control measures have reduced the severity and/or likelihood to minimal levels. |
| Medium | Injury would require the participant to stop doing the activity; medical treatment is beyond the skills of a basic first aider. | Control measures have reduced severity and/or likelihood to an adequate level but hazard still requires dynamic risk assessment and conscious consideration. |
| High | Injury would require expert medical attention and/or be fatal. | Control measures haven't reduced severity or likelihood to an acceptable level. |

| Hazardous Event | Who may be harmed? | Foreseeable Severity | Control Measures in Place ( Systematic controls  What to say  What to do  What to check) | | Residual Risk |
|--------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--|---|---------------|
| Supervision of the group | Group | Medium |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructors must have completed in house training and assessment (with assessment by a competent person). The session will be broken down and supervised as four phases- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Planning 2. Raft Building 3. Paddling the rafts on the water 4. Dismantling Phases 1, 2 and 4 may be assisted/supervised by the groups own staff with an appropriate briefing. And instruction from the instructor. | Low |








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|--|--------------------|----------------------|--|---|---------------|
| Entrapment or entanglement in ropes | Group | High |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tell participants not to wrap ropes around themselves, or put their arms/legs through loops, or gaps in the raft structure. | Low |
| | | |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carry a rescue knife to quickly release any entanglement in ropes. Launch rafts at different times to ensure good supervision when first deployed. | |
| Incorrect lifting or mishandling of raft build equipment | Group | Medium |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equipment used is selected to be movable by children. | Medium |
| | | |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teach participants how to safely handle equipment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be aware of other people's location when moving poles. Minimum of two people per pole/barrel if children. To work in groups of 6 (under 14's) or 4 (adults) when moving rafts. | |
| Slips trips and falls, including impact with equipment | Group | Medium |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helmets are compulsory for this activity. | Low |
| | | |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highlight the risk of being hit with a paddle or pole, and demonstrate correct paddling technique to minimise the chance of accidental strikes | |
| | | |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make sure that participant kneel or sit (don't stand). | |
| | | |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check that clothing requirements have been met (e.g. closed toe shoes) | |



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|---------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--|--|---------------|
| Raft failing participants falling in. | Group | Medium |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The instructor to be positioned in a canoe/sit on top kayak OR able to reach participants easily with throw line/ reach pole from the shore during the on water part of the session. | Low |



| Revision History | | |
|------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Date | Author/Reviewer | Notes |
| 19/04/2024 | Richard Shackleton | Initial Version |
| 03/07/2025 | Nick Barry – Activity Instructor Water Activities | Rewrite in new format |
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