



# ABSEILING SPECIFIC RISKS

## Along with General Overall Activity Risks

### Qualified Instructor Run Activity



Updated: 20 January 2026 Reviewed: 20 January 2026

Risk	Outcome if risk occurred	Existing Risk Control Actions	Residual Risk Assessment			Group Leader Required Risk Control Actions
			Likelihood	Consequence	Risk Rating	
<b>People Dangers</b>						
Lack of Supervision and Unqualified Instruction	Injury	Must be run by a qualified abseiling instructor with a WWVP card Best Group size: 12-15 participants per group	1	4	M	Provide 2 adults – One responsible for supervising the group, this is not the instructor’s job. One to assist the instructor at the top of the abseil
Behavioural Issues • Don’t follow the instructions • Horsing around	Injury Disappearance	Participants instructed in safe procedures, rules and expectations	2	3	M	Supervisor to ensure participants cooperate with the instructor and follow instructions. Supervisor manages participants sitting on the bench seats waiting their turn. Regular head count
Walking through the Restricted area (beyond safety line, and area directly below abseils)	Injury	Supervision and Participants instructed not to walk through restricted areas	2	4	M	Supervisor to ensure participants cooperate with the instructor and follow instructions. Manages participants waiting their turn.
Too many participants at the top of the cliff	Injury, Falls	Maximum of two participants at the top. Rest of the group are to sit on the seats at bottom of cliff.	2	4	M	Suitable First Aid Kit Constant supervision by assisting adult
Ill-prepared participants – Psychological (e.g. fear of heights)	Stress Trauma	Participants briefed on expectations and conditions for abseiling.	2	2	L	Leaders to run activity at participants level of skill. Practice “challenge by choice”
<b>Equipment Dangers</b>						
Broken/Damaged Equipment	Injury	Regular checking and maintenance of Equipment Correct instruction so equipment does not get damaged	2	4	M	Reporting of any concerns, incidents to group leader and camp management
Loose Harness/Helmet	Falls, Injury	Instruction in wearing harness and helmets Checked by instructor prior to activity to ensure correct	2	4	M	Assistant Adult to help participants as necessary with harnesses and helmets
Worn/Damaged Rope	Injury	Rope Log and Maintenance Schedule Regular inspection of rope and replacement as necessary	3	3	M	Inspection prior to immediate use.
Damaged/Frayed stopper and stopper knot	Injury	Regular inspection of knot and stopper and replaced as necessary	2	3	M	Inspection before and after use.
Long hair/loose jewellery	Entanglement/ Injury	Ensure that hair is tied back and that none of the participant are wearing any loose jewellery	2	2	L	Group supervisor to ensure participants obey safety requirements. Secondary checks made before undertaking activity.
<b>Environmental Dangers</b>						
Rock/Tree fall/Loose debris at cliff edge and base.	Injury/Death	Regular tidy up of the area around the abseil removal of loose debris. All participants to always wear helmets	2	3	M	Inspect Abseil area prior to activity and remove any loose debris.
Wildlife: snakes, ants, bees	Injury	Inspect abseil area including the path to the top before use	2	4	M	Always be aware of surroundings and report any dangers
Weather and weather warnings	Illness and /or injury	Instructor has option of cancelling activity if weather is poor or unsafe and warnings have wind greater than 40 km with gusts.	1	3	L	Have activity options available in case of unsafe or poor weather

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