Risk Identification – Rock

What could go wrong? **RISK**	Why would this happen? **HAZARD**	Significance? **RISK RATING** Refer to SMP pg. 17	**Controls - What we will do about it – Standard Operating Procedures** The Assessor is accountable for the overall safety of the course and must ensure the below controls are in place
Serious Injury or Death - Person falls from height to ledge or ground	1. Person falls from top of crag 2. Inadequate belaying 3. Equipment failure 4. Human error	Medium	1. Assessors, candidates/trainees and model clients must be on a safety system at the top of crag when near the edge. Clear boundaries are set for model clients and helpers at the top. 2. Candidates must belay correctly (pull, lock, grab, and slide) with no slack in the system before teaching model clients. Oversee belaying on model client day and step in if candidates not instructing or monitoring it correctly. Back-up belayers are used on model client day unless model clients prove repetitively competent. Climbers are lowered to the ground in a controlled manner. 3. Assessors, candidates/trainees and model clients use equipment in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations and current good practice. All candidate/trainee and model client equipment is checked for appropriate use, age and damage. 4. NZOIA ratios are maintained at all times. Equipment is used correctly. An Assessor must check all anchors before use. Monitor all rescue tasks closely. Knots are put in the end of ropes on self-protected abseils when the ends cannot be seen on the ground. Persons abseiling must use an additional safety line or self-protection method as a backup, appropriate to their experience level.
Serious Injury or Death - Object falls on person's head while climbing at the	1. Rock dislodged by climber or person on top of crag. 2. Equipment or gear dropped by climber or	Medium	1, 2, 3. Helmets are to be worn by Assessors, candidates/trainees, model clients and helpers at the bottom of the crag. 1 & 3. Check weather for high winds if location is problematic. Clean-up of loose rocks, and significant debris is completed at the top of the crag top prior to use when practicable.

bottom of the crag	person on top of crag. 3. External object such as pine cones, tree branches dropping from above.		
Serious Injury or Death - Natural Disaster - Earthquake	1. Rock Fall 2. Unstable ground 3. Damage to anchors	Medium	1. Helmets to be worn at all times at the top and bottom of the crag and while climbing/abseiling. 1, 2 & 3. In the event of an earthquake, evacuate away from rock faces. If climbing or abseiling: Lock of belay/abseil until shaking has stopped. Once shaking has stopped, lower climber/abseiler to the ground, then evacuate. Leave intentions with someone.
Serious Injury or Death - Medical Condition	1. Known medical condition arises 2. Unknown medical condition occurs	Medium	1 & 2. Assessors and assessment candidates to have a current first aid certificate and a means of contacting emergency services. 1. Medical forms of candidates/trainees and model clients are checked and relevant information is considered. Personal medication is being carried by the participant (i.e. inhalers, adrenaline). A first aid kit is carried at all times.
Serious Injury - Broken / twisted ankles	1. Uncontrolled landing on a ledge	Medium	1. There must be no slack in the top rope belaying system. Candidates/trainees pick lead climbs that can be safely protected and within their capability. Candidates/trainees are protecting lead climbs above ledges as well as possible. Lead belayers, belay correctly and actively. Candidates choose appropriate routes, anchors, climbing techniques and terrain within the scope of the qualification and the ability of the model clients.
Injury Rope burn	1. Incorrect belaying or abseiling technique 2. Rope behind leg when leading	Medium	1. Candidates belay correctly (pull, lock, grab, and slide) with no slack in the system before teaching model clients. Oversee belaying on model client day and step in if candidates not instructing or monitoring it correctly. Back-up belayers are used on model client day unless model clients prove repetitively competent. Participants stay in control while abseiling and have back up system in place. Climbers are lowered to the ground in a controlled manner.

			2. Candidates/trainees are aware of the dangers of having the rope behind leg when leading, and practise techniques to avoid it. Candidates teach and monitor this on model client day.
Serious Injury or Death - Hair or clothing caught in abseil or belay device	1. Model students not briefed or checked prior to abseiling	Medium	1. Candidates to have demonstrated rescue skills prior to model client day. Abseilers and Belayers are briefed on tying long hair back and tucking in clothing.
Access denied	1. Using a crag without permission 2. Disrespectful use of a crag	Medium	1. Research permissions needed for an area and obtain them. The Aotearoa Climbing Access Trust (ACAT) may be able to assist: https://www.acat.org.nz/ Course Director to inform NZOIA of any requirements for future reference. 2. Permission requirements are carried out by all participants.

Updated on: 26 March 2024 **To be Reviewed by: 31 December 2024**

Site specific Hazards – Rock Climbing:

These site-specific hazards are reported by Assessors following a NZOIA course. This is only one source of the potential hazards in an area and is quickly outdated. Assessors are responsible for seeking up to date information on the location they are going to work in from other sources for e.g. DOC, local operators, instructors and guides.

Risk	Location of Hazard	Date Identified	Control - What we will do about it – Standard Operating Procedures The Assessor is accountable for the overall safety of the course and must ensure the below controls are in place
Serious Injury or Death - Fall	**Charleston**	25/3/23	Extra diligence needed when checking bolted anchors due to a highly corrosive environment.
Serious Injury or Death – Loose Rock	**Charleston** Especially in top layers	25/3/23	Check tops of crags for loose rock prior to climbing and clear the area before candidates or model clients arrive. Everyone at the climbing area wears helmets. Minimise observers and participants in the rock fall zone of each route. Extra diligence needed with checking anchors.

Serious Injury or death – Overcome by rogue waves	**Charleston**	25/3/22	Check tides, swell and weather forecast and manage accordingly.
Death – Fall into a blowhole	**Charleston**	25/3/23	Before descending into Usher's cove brief group on hazard and keeping well back from the blowholes. Point out blowholes and safe areas when down in cove.
Access denied – Māori artwork and wāhi tapu site	**Kinloch**	11/3/24	Kinloch is not to be used for NZOIA courses until further notice. All access onto Whangamata No3 Trust land at Kinloch for the purpose of rock climbing is to cease until further notice. – Raewyn Arihia, Wairakei Terraces.
Serious Injury or Death – Rock Fall	**Long Beach** **1. Main Wall** Between *Aafnraa* and *Crime and Punishment* **2. New development** between the pinnacle and caves	27/02/2024	1. Climbing or walking between the areas of *Aafnraa* to *Crime and Punishment* is not advised during or directly after heavy rain or wind. Tim spent in this area should be restricted and must not be used for model clients. The rock fall risk on all other Main Cliff areas is significant. 2. No climbing or walking beneath the new developments between the pinnacle and the caves (The Aviary, Circus, Hidden Wall and Pompeii walls)
Serious Injury or Death - Volcanic Activity – Ash Bombs, lahar pathways.	**Meads Wall** **Whakapapa Gorge** (right end) **Halfmoon**	23/3/23	Check alert level from geo net web site. If the alert level increases from alert 1 (normal for Ruapehu) follow DOC restrictions. Be familiar with the routes and pathways of potential lahar flows.
Alpine crag environment 1. Hypothermia 2. Freeze/Thaw	**Meads Wall.** 1600m above sea level. **Whakapapa Gorge** (right end) **Half Moon**	23/3/23	1. Disclose risk of this unique environment to candidates and ensure candidate and model clients have the appropriate clothing. 2. Check rock thoroughly for solidness.

Serious Injury or Death – Fall on walk in track with exposed 30m drops.	**Whanganui Bay.** Whekenui area.	29/9/16	Handlines are in place and risk disclosed. Use spotters as appropriate.