

Risk assessment for the ropes course at Thames Young Mariners

Human Hazards

Hazard type	Who may be harmed	Is the risk adequately controlled
All hazards	All Participants and Staff	Appropriately trained Surrey Outdoor Learning and Development (S.O.L.D) staff to facilitate ensuring safe supervision of participants. All participants to be briefed clearly throughout session. Staff must follow operational procedures of activity sessions. All equipment checked and maintained according to manufacturers guidelines. See 'general' risk assessment for S.O.L.D. centre.
Falling off platform	All Participants and Staff	All participants will be clipped onto the staples once on the platform. Falling off an element into the water or onto the ground All Participants & Staff All participants will be clipped onto the safety wire before leaving the platform.
Falling below an element	All Participants and Staff	All participants will have their cows tails set to the correct height for their size so they may self-rescue.
Falling onto an element	All Participants and Staff	The safety sling has been shortened to stop the individuals head from falling below the element so reducing the risk of an injury.
Not being able to self-rescue on the elements	All Participants and Staff	The hoist should be deployed to bring the person back above the element and then back to the side.
Bangs to the head	All Participants and Staff	Helmets to be worn at all times.
Falling from the side into the water when not on an element	All Participants and Staff	When in the fenced off areas all individuals should be clipped to the safety rope, staples on platform or the safety lines on the elements.
Falling into the water from the sides	All Participants and Staff	All participants to be clipped to the safety ropes or platforms unless they are behind the said rope.

Environment Hazards

Hazard type	Who may be harmed	Is the risk adequately controlled
Sliding into the middle of the element when coming off	All Participants and Staff	Helmets to be worn and rope stops to be employed.

Equipment Hazards

Hazard type	Who may be harmed	Is the risk adequately controlled
Inverting in the harness	All Participants and Staff	Chest and seat harnesses to be worn when on the elements.
Fingers becoming trapped by the trolleys	All Participants and Staff	The trolleys should be out of reach when the cowstails are set or the lowering rope in the case of the aerial runway.
Failure to put the safety equipment on correctly	All Participants and Staff	All staff will be given staff training to spot incorrect wearing of safety equipment, all harnesses will be checked before they are put away each session.
Rope related accidents	All participants	Participants to be taught correct operational techniques. Supervised by instructor.
The car becoming stuck in the middle of the aerial runway	All Participants and Staff	The instructor will lower down the zip line and then lower off the line into a boat with the client.