
Arthur's Pass Outdoor Education Centre Risk Analysis And Management System:

Activity: River Crossing:

Date: Updated April 2010 (from May 08, Dec 05, Jan 02 & Feb 99 updates of April 96 originals)

Key Risks:

Accident, injury or other form of loss:

- A. Fall causing injury
- B. Drowning
- C. Hypothermia
- D. Illness
- E. Psychological harm
- F. Loss of group member/s

Causal Factors and Risk Management:

People Hazards:

1. Not using correct technique. (A, B, E)
2. Lack of safety procedures. (A, B, E)
3. Silliness during crossing (A, B, E)
4. Lack of food or exhaustion lowering children's resistance to cold (C)
5. One of group separates or group splits up during crossing (B, C, E)
6. Inattention to task causing fall/slip (B, C, E)
7. Poor motor skill/balance causing slip or fall (B, C, E)
8. Pushing/shoving causing fall (B, C, E)
9. Group member/s disappear while adults are concentrating on water activity (F)
10. Fear of water or drowning (E)

People Management:

1. Get each group to practice correct NZMSC technique on dry land before activity.
2. One group crosses at a time. Have a catcher down stream at all times and an adult on each bank to manage groups. Watch each group for technique, safety and silliness.
3. Groups that behave in an irresponsible manor taken out of activity. Take silly behaviour very seriously. Stop any boulder hopping activities where there is a risk of injury.
4. Make sure group has snacks on hand and has eaten within last 2 hours.
5. Brief importance of holding together and talk to group all the way through the crossing.
6. Keep group on task and if group/individual is not concentrating remove them from activity.
7. ID motor skills problems and appoint an adult to help.
8. See No: 6 above. Unless very short or very young (6 or under), do not carry or have anyone carried across a stream or river.
9. Have adults on both banks to supervise and brief them to be aware of this risk.
10. Voluntary activity, watch children for apprehension and brief them that it is ok to back out at any point.

<p>Equipment Hazards:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Slipping or falling due to inadequate footwear (A, B, E) 2. Inadequate clothing causing fall (A, B) 3. Inadequate clothing leading to Hypothermia (C) 4. Lack of required medication (D) 	<p>Equipment Management:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Check for adequate footwear (no sandals, jandals, gumboots or bare feet) 2. Shorts preferred, no excessively baggy trousers allowed 3. Check before activity that clothing is adequate, no jeans, woollen socks preferred 4. Standard checks before activity, ensure all members know they are responsible for their own medication
---	---

<p>Environment Hazards:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Current too strong for children (A, D, C, E) 2. Slipping on difficult/slippy rocks during crossing (A, D, C, E) 3. Sudden weather changes (C) 4. Group member becomes separated or lost in trees near crossing (F) 5. Steep banks near crossing (A) 6. Icy or slippy conditions lead to a fall (A) 7. Sun burn (D) 	<p>Environment Management:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Manager to cross river first to check current strength (river must not be crossed if it is: Over waist of smaller group members, discoloured, carrying debris or obviously in flood) 2. Choose easy crossings, warn of any difficult or slippy rocks 3. Check forecast and weather warnings before leaving, and monitor weather and stream levels throughout activity 4. Assign parents to monitor children on both banks 5. Assign boundaries where steep banks exist 6. If conditions are tricky warn group, if they are dangerous cancel activity 7. Brief group on solar hazards. Group to carry sunscreen/sun hats.
--	---

<p>Emergency Management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APOEC first aid kit carried at all times. Manager has up to date FA and CPR skills. • Van at lodge to shorten reaction/evacuation time. • Emergency response contacts for the area are in FA kits and lodge manual (in Kitchen). • Telephones available for 111 calls. • Manager to carry Cell phone for emergencies. • Group briefed on emergency procedures on arrival. • The manager must always be able to split the group and still maintain adequate adult to child ratios. • Maintain 1:4 ratio of active, competent supervisors to participants whenever running “wet” activities • Throw bag must be present when swimming/crossing in rivers/pools wider than 3 metres. At least one supervisor must be proficient in its use. • Supervising adults must be able to safely reach any participant in the water within 30 seconds (with the throw bag if needed). • In emergency arrange for the return of the group to the lodge.
--

<p>Relevant industry standards applicable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manager has current FA/CPR cert. • NZMSC techniques for river crossing. • Children must be supervised. Ratios are to be the lower of those accepted as the policy of the relevant school Board of Trustees or APOEC (1:6 for general activities, 1:5 for activities above

1300m ASL and 1:4 for water activities).

- Van has current passenger WOF.
- River Safe guidelines for river crossings.

Notes/ recommendations:

- Always use number checks.
- If stream dirty or approaching waist deep on children do not cross.
- Min 4 adults on trip.
- Thorough safety briefing required when each group arrives.
- The teacher in charge is responsible for discipline of members of the group at all times.
- Students with poor motor skills to have an adult buddy.
- Participation not compulsory.
- Activity not to be run in exceptionally frosty/slippy conditions.
- Group must be adequately briefed on staying together and behaviour.

Skills required by staff:

- First aid/CPR.
- Group facilitation.
- Group management and sound outdoor leadership.
- Risk identification and management skills.
- Ability to teach and enforce correct NZMSC River crossing guidelines.
- Swim strong enough to conduct an in water rescue.
- Throw bag rescues.

Note:

This activity cannot be run in the absence of the APOEC Manager/ Instructor.