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

Activity: Snow fights:

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

Key Risks:

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| <p>Accident, injury or other form of loss:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Injury through being hit by snowball 2. Injury through fall on ice or snow 3. Hypothermia 4. "Cold Injury" (frost nip) to hands 5. Sunburn and/or snow blindness 6. Psychological harm |
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Causal Factors and Risk Management:

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| <p>People Hazards:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Children over-compacting snowballs – or compacting stones or other materials into snowball (A) 2. Children throwing snowballs above shoulder height (A) 3. Children ganging up on individuals (E) 4. Snowballs being thrown at individuals who do not want to participate (A, E) | <p>People Management:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Brief to roll loose snowballs, from areas without stones or debris. 2. Brief to only throw snowballs below shoulder height. 3. Set boundaries for activity, no snowballs are to be thrown outside of the boundaries. Pupils can leave boundary at any time. 4. Same as point 3. Set out a safe area for students who want to play in the snow but do not want to be involved in a snowball fight. 5. Ensure that a responsible person is supervising. |
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| <p>Equipment Hazards:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Inadequate footwear leading to a fall (B) 2. Inadequate clothing leading to hypothermia (C) | <p>Equipment Management:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure adequate footwear is worn. 2. Ensure that warm clothing, hats, gloves and waterproof jackets are worn. |
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| <p>Environment Hazards:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cold temperatures leading to hypothermia (C) 2. Contact with snow leading to frost nip on hands (D) 3. Icy or slippery ground (B) 4. High UV levels and glare from snow (E) | <p>Environment Management:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure that warm clothing, hats and waterproof jackets are worn 2. Gloves must be worn and children briefed to stop activity if they cannot feel their hands 3. Choose flat areas with no dangerous protrusions where falls will be of little consequence 4. If activity is expected to carry on more than 10 minutes in sunshine or 20 minutes in overcast conditions, children must wear sunscreen. Sunglasses essential for any prolonged exposure to snow. |
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Emergency Management:

- APOEC first aid kit carried at all times. Manager has up to date FA and CPR skills.
- Van at lodge/track car park 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.
- In emergency arrange for the return of the group to the lodge.
- Ensure there are enough adults on hand to carry out a search.

Relevant industry standards applicable:

- Manager has current First Aid/ CPR cert.
- 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.

Notes/ recommendations:

- Always use number checks.
- 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.
- Do not walk on icy roads and wait for grit or a thaw.
- Participation not compulsory.
- Activity not to be run in exceptionally frosty/ slippery conditions.
- Group must be adequately briefed on staying together and behaviour.
- Take care not to get into a position where you are alone with any of the children. Take an adult with you whenever sweeping.

Skills required by staff:

- First aid/CPR.
- Group facilitation.
- Knowledge of how to run activity.

Note:

This activity can be run in the absence of the APOEC Manager/ Instructor -providing no river crossing or swimming is undertaken.

Skills required by volunteer supervisors running this activity;

- First aid/ CPR certification required by at least one supervisor.
- Group facilitation
- Knowledge of how activity is to be run
- Group management.