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

Activity: Swimming in Avalanche Creek, Bealey River or Alpine Tarns:

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

Note: The RAMS for the appropriate walk applies where a walk is required to reach swimming site.

Key Risks:

<p>Accident, injury or other form of loss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Drowning B. Loss of individual C. Hypothermia D. Injury (esp. lacerations, broken bones) E. Injury (head or facial) F. Psychological harm

Causal Factors and Risk Management:

<p>People Hazards:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Person getting out of their depth or being unable to swim (A, F) 2. Member of group wandering away during activity (B) 3. Running or slipping on rocks (A, D, E) 4. Diving into shallow water (D, E) 5. Jumping into shallow water (D) 6. Staying in water too long (C) 7. Pushing other persons (D, E, F) 8. Fear of water or drowning (F) 9. Insufficient of unskilled supervision (A, B, D, E, F) 	<p>People Management:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Site must possess a shallow area for those less confident. Teacher to identify those who are poor or non-swimmers, these persons must be supervised. In all moving pools wider than 3 metres a throw bag must be present and at least one adult must be proficient in its use. If the throw bag is required, all swimmers must be briefed on its use. Supervisors must be able to reach a swimmer within 30 seconds without endangering themselves. 2. An adult supervisor is to be assigned to supervising those not in the water. Head counts before and after activity. The entire site must be visible to supervisors at all times. 3. No running rule enforced. 4. Brief no diving. 5. Identify safe sites for jumping. Brief only jump one at a time, must wait until pool is clear before next jump. Jumping sites must be least 1.5 metres deep and jump take off must be less than 1 metre above water level. Pool must be clear of submerged objects (this must be physically checked!). 6. Set time limit in water based on age and conditions. 7. No pushing rule. 8. Challenge by choice. 9. 1:4 ratio minimum. At least 3 supervisors must present and at least two supervisors must be able to swim confidently. One supervisor must hold current CPR certification.
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<p>Equipment Hazards:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clothing insufficient resulting in hypothermia (C) 2. Clothing causing drag when swimming (A) 	<p>Equipment Management:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Standard rules apply for outdoor clothing. Towel, raincoat and warm hat always compulsory. Jersey/Polar fleece and gloves (as in winter) recommended. 2. Shorts, togs, tee shirts and singlets only for swimming. No trousers (including shorts below the knees), sweatshirts etc.
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<p>Environment Hazards:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strong currents (A) 2. Hazardous water features such as snags, sieves, large eddies and rapids (A) 3. Cold leading to loss of feeling and subsequently cuts and bruising (D) 4. Areas of white water causing falls, stumbles (D, E) 5. Sudden weather change when away from lodge (C) 6. Site has small or unsafe banks or shore (A, D, E) 	<p>Environment Management:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Choose known sites with slow water (less than walking speed). Site must have safe runoff. 2. Choose known sites clear of hazardous water features (check before every swim). 3. Limit time in water, brief about hazard to feet. 4. No entering/walking in white water, even if shallow. 5. Manage as for RAMMS for the walk in question. Aware of wx last 24 hours. 6. Site must have room for non-swimmers to safely watch and banks/shore must be free of overhangs/slippery slopes.
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<p>Emergency Management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APOEC first aid kits carried by manager and TEC at all times. Manager has up to date FA and CPR skills. If manager is not present another supervisor with current CPR certification must be used. • Throw bag must be present when swimming in moving pools wider than 3 metres. At least one supervisor must be proficient in it's use. • Supervising adults must be able to safely reach swimmers within 30 seconds (with the throw bag if needed). • APOEC van and telephone available for emergencies. • The manager must always be able to split the group and still maintain adequate adult to child ratios. • Manger to carry Cell phone for emergencies.

<p>Relevant industry standards applicable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommended adult to child ratio 1:4. • River Safe guidelines.

Notes/ recommendations:

- Always use number checks.
- Min 2 adults for activity.
- 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 cold and wet weather 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.
- If a group decides to go swimming without APOEC acknowledgement, or if a supervisor acts outside of the guidelines outlined in this RAMS form they are to be considered as 'acting on their own' and not as part of an APOEC programme.

Skills required by staff:

- First aid/CPR.
- Able to swim strong enough to conduct in water rescue.
- Throw bag rescues.
- Group facilitation.
- Group management and sound leadership.

Note:

This activity can be run in the absence of the APOEC Manager/ Instructor.

Skills required by volunteer supervisors running this activity:

- Knowledge of how activity is to be run.
- Ability to carefully and diligently supervise activity
- At least one other supervisor must be a competent swimmer and know how to use the throw bag.