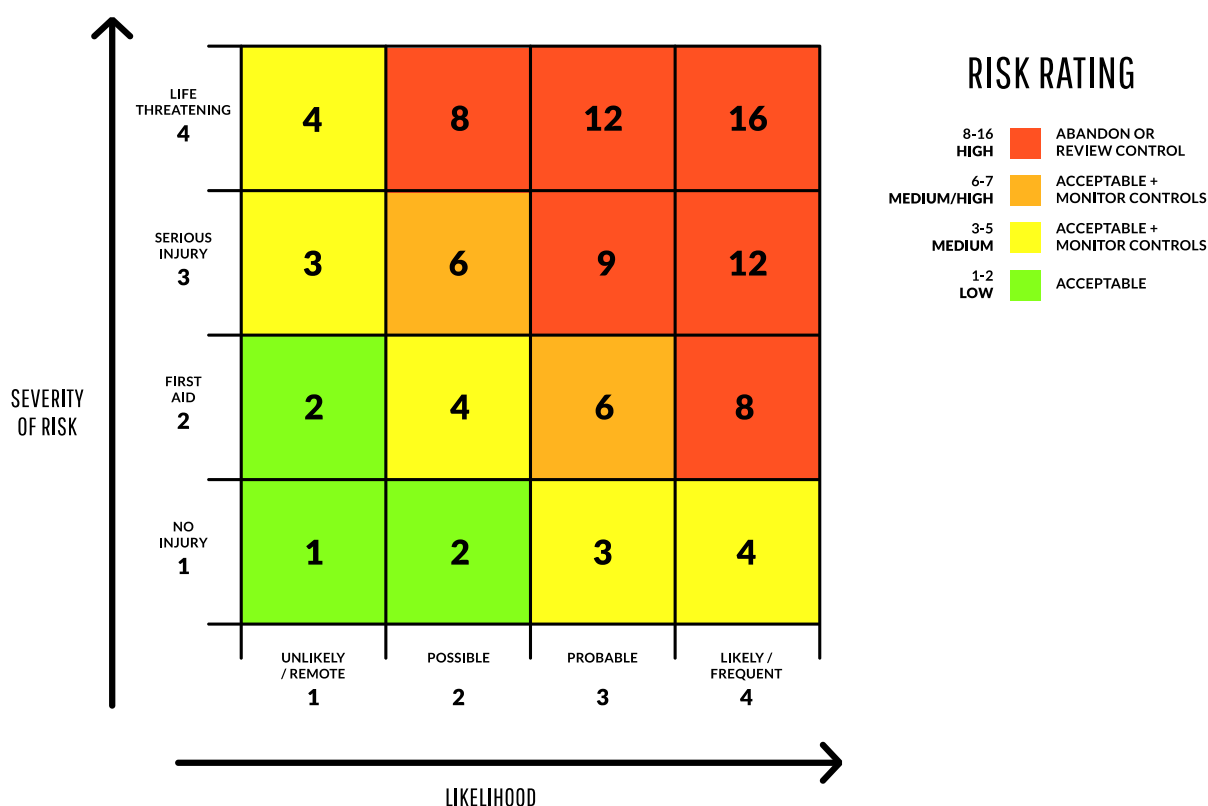


RISK ASSESSMENT – Forest Facility

Canoe/Kayak/Rafting/Packrafting/Water Jump

ACTIVITY Canoe,Kayak ,Rafting,Pack rafting,Water Jump	LOCATION <i>Forest Facility – Stamford</i>	DATES COVERED BY THIS ASSESSMENT <i>June 2025-2026</i>	CREATION DATE 11 July 2023 REVISION DATE 17 June 2025
RISK ASSESSED BY	<i>Sarah King</i>		
UPDATED BY	<i>Sarah King</i>		
APPROVED BY	<i>Darren Grigas</i>		

PERSONS AT RISK : PARTICIPANTS (P), FF STAFF (FF), SPECTATORS (S)
 SEVERITY OF RISK : LIFE THREATENING = (4), RISK OF SERIOUS INJURY = (3), FIRST AID RISK = (2), NO INJURY = (1)
 PROBABILITY : LIKELY/FREQUENT (4), PROBABLE (3), POSSIBLE (2), UNLIKELY/REMOTE (1)
 CALC IF RISK ACCEPTABLE : SCORE = SEVERITY x PROBABILITY



IF THE SCORE IS **8 OR GREATER**, THE RISK IS **NOT ACCEPTABLE** - REVIEW THE CONTROLS OR ABANDON ACTIVITY
 IF THE SCORE IS **LESS THAN 8**, THE RISK IS **ACCEPTABLE** – ENSURE CONTROLS ARE IN PLACE

FOR FIRST VERSION THE FORM SHOULD BE COMPLETED WITH PESSIMISTIC RISK SCORES. LATER VERSIONS CAN SHOW WHAT INCREMENTAL CONTROLS HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED TO FURTHER REDUCE RISKS.

5 PRINCIPLES OF GOOD RISK ASSESSMENT:

- 1.) Identify the hazards
- 2.) Decide who may be at risk; and how
- 3.) Evaluate the risks and decide on control measures
- 4.) Record your findings
- 5.) Review your assessment and update as necessary

TOP NOTE	<i>It is accepted that cuts and scrapes will occur within this activity. The purpose of this is to minimise the level of risk to a level which is then acceptable. Risk assessment is a continual process which does not stop at this written document and therefore this is a dynamic process.</i>
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HAZARD IDENTIFIED		THOSE AT RISK	SEVERITY	PROBABILITY	RISK SCORE	ACCEPTABLE YES/NO	NOTES/ CONTROL
1	Collision with people (participants and spectators)	P,FF,S	2	2	4	YES	Caution and courtesy emphasised at verbal pre-activity briefing. FF to be positioned at risk areas. Supervision by FF at all times, more than one instructor allocated. Spectators unlikely to be at lake areas.
2	Equipment Failure	P,FF	2	1	2	Yes	FF to check kit before start of activity. FF to explain all kit to the team, check that it fits and is working. Spares should be carried if appropriate, for example a BA and spare paddle.
3	Collision with water obstacles	P,FF	2	2	4	Yes	Relevant danger areas clearly marked with hazard tape. Vigilance urged and caution and courtesy emphasised at verbal pre activity briefing. FF supervising at all times. Padding added to specific sections of structures if at likely risk to collision with head
4	General: Slipping, Falling, Tripping	P	2	2	4	Yes	Activity designed to suit P abilities and fit-for-purpose. P advised in order to approach accordingly. Footwear suitable for water activities advised. Known hazards on land identified by tape/yellow spray paint.
5	Trips/Ground Extrusions	P,FF,S	2	2	6	Y	Advised of known spots. Danger areas clearly marked with hazard tape, cones, padding, spray paint or fencing. Vigilance urged.

6	Cuts, Scratches and Bruising	P	2	2	4	Y	Cuts, scratches and bruising are to be expected. Hard and / or pointed parts of obstacles will be padded if there is a realistic risk of someone landing on them. Any serious injuries can be assessed by medic and medical resources on site.
7	Overcrowding	P	2	2	4	Y	Controlled number of participants on the water at any time. Jump structure monitored for numbers of users by FF.
8	Finger traps	P	2	2	4	Y	Any gaps are tested and adjusted so that they are correct width and do not present themselves as a finger trap
9	Construction quality of all equipment	P,FF	2	2	4	Y	All equipment are manufactured by specialist professional manufacturers. Where appropriate obstacles meet with the relevant CDM building control standards for temporary structures.
10	Risk to arms/legs from traps	P	2	2	4	Y	Activity is considered in respect of limb traps, when tackled by most reasonable methods, and designed/built accordingly. Ps briefed to be aware of the activity obstacles. FF to instruct as appropriate.
11	Fall from height	P	2	3	6	Y	Obstacles chosen to limit exposure. Ps briefed on descending from high obstacles. Water jump depth sufficient for height of jump. Structure designed to protect P waiting on jump structure from risk of falls.
12	Catching Fire	P/M/S	1	1	1	Y	Materials are not self-combustible. No heat or ignition sources are stored in the area.
WATER SPECIFIC HAZARDS							
1	Hypothermia	P	3	2	6	Y	Activities carried out during warmer months. P only immersed for a short period of time. Medical team on site. Re-warm facilities with heater at base camp. P briefed to keep moving after water. Foil blankets available.
2	Shock-induced injury/ heart attack	P	4	1	4	Y	Medical team on site. Participants warned about activity and people with pre-existing medical conditions advised not to take part. All P issued buoyancy aids. Defib on site

3	Slips, trips and falls	P	2	2	4	Y	Water transfer and surrounding conditions monitored by FF. P warned of general conditions and what to expect from ground conditions. Shoes with grip advised.
4	Drowning	P	4	1	4	Y	Limited participants on activity to prevent over-crowding. FF to monitor P numbers in and out are correct, spotting emergence from water. Safety kayakers and/ or shore-based water safety teams in position. Access all round pools clear for assistance If required. All P wear buoyancy aids. FF carry throw lines. Water depths and entry/exit points are assessed for safety by trained personnel. A rescue protocol is in place and staff are trained in water rescue
5	Illness/infection (from exposure to water)	P	3	2	6	Y	<p>Verbal pre-activity briefing expressly states 'do not drink the water.' Hand sanitizer at base camp. All P advised to consult Doctor post-event if symptoms present commensurate with exposure to waterborne illness.</p> <p>Participants will be informed of potential post-event health symptoms associated with exposure to natural water sources, including leptospirosis (Weil's disease) and other waterborne gastrointestinal infections. Communication Methods:</p> <p>A verbal briefing will be provided pre-activity to remind participants not to ingest water and to use hand sanitiser post-activity.</p> <p>Event signage and/or participant information sheets will include clear warnings and symptom guidance.</p> <p>A post-event email will be sent within 24–48 hours of the activity</p>

6	Extreme Weather Increased risk of injury, illness, or drowning due to adverse weather conditions during kayaking, canoeing, rafting, or packrafting activities.	P,FF	3	2	6	Y	<p>Hot Weather / Heatwaves Activities may be modified or shortened during extreme heat. All participants advised to wear lightweight, UV-protective clothing and remain hydrated. Re-warm/change shelters repurposed as shaded rest areas if required. Staff to monitor for signs of heat exhaustion or heatstroke.</p> <p>Cold Weather / Wind Chill Participants briefed on the importance of thermal layers, including wetsuits/dry suits where appropriate. Immersion times minimised during colder months. Heated shelter or re-warm zone available at base camp. Activities may be postponed if wind chill or water temperature poses hypothermia risk.</p> <p>Storms / Lightning All water activities will be suspended immediately at the first sign of thunder or lightning. Activities will resume no sooner than 30 minutes after the last observed lightning or thunder, following the "30-30 Rule." Participants will be directed to shelter in designated safe areas until the all-clear is given.</p> <p>High Winds Wind conditions assessed regularly throughout the day by the Activity Lead. Activities suspended if wind speeds exceed 25 mph sustained or if gusts exceed 35 mph, particularly where wind affects paddling control or safe use of pontoons/jump structures. Alternative land-based activities may be offered if water sessions are paused due to wind.</p>
							<p>Responsibility and Monitoring: The Activity Lead or Site Manager is responsible for monitoring Met Office forecasts and live weather conditions. All operational staff briefed on weather thresholds and emergency procedures. Cancellation or suspension decisions made with a "safety-first" principle, and</p>

						communicated to all teams and participants on-site.
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Additional controls:

No further hazards identified during assessment. Live monitoring to continue.

HAZARD IDENTIFIED	THOSE AT RISK	INITIAL RISK SCORE	EXTRA CONTROLS	SEVERITY	PROBABILITY	NEW RISK SCORE	ACCEPTABLE YES/NO
1							
2							
3							

Note: Risk Assessment is a dynamic process. Although this written assessment has been created, reviewed and issued, there might be situations during the activity delivery that require re-assessment to be made. If so, it may not be practical to modify any written materials. Verbal revisions, voice recordings and on-the-ground live assessment are all suitable methods of risk assessment. If in doubt, stop work, assess the risk and evaluate.

Signed and date by Author	<i>Sarah King June 2025 Operations Director</i>
Approved by	<i>Darren Grigas – Director</i>
To be issued to	<i>Forest Facility Team Members</i>