

OED2R: Rock Environments Safety Management Strategies

The main hazards for year 2 rock environments relate to students learning the skills of lead climbing and developing independence.

| Risk to student safety | Management strategies |
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| Belaying failure | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will demonstrate competent belaying technique for belaying a leader and a second • Each student will be checked the first time they belay to make sure they can competently perform the task. Students not-yet-competent will be supervised until competent or may be provided with a back-up belayer until they demonstrate competence. • Staff consistently monitor belaying technique and provide feedback as required. • Students to climb only with competent peers and are actively discouraged from attempting to guide novices. • Students to demonstrate an effective system of calls and checks before climbing |
| Belay failure | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students to demonstrate good belay construction (eg, SERENE) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Solid and simple ○ Equalized ○ REdundancy ○ Non Extending • Students to practice belay construction at ground level before progressing to belay construction at cliff-top. Only proceed to cliff-top belay construction once mastery on ground level is demonstrated. • Before any student belays another student, belay set ups will be initially checked by staff member, until the student has demonstrated competence (For as long as this is necessary) |
| Leader fall | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help students to choose appropriate routes to suit their ability – start conservatively and encourage students to choose climbs 3 or 4 grades below their climbing limits until staff suggest they are ready to extend themselves further. • Staff to supervise students on early leads to make sure they are placing gear appropriately and |

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| | <p>regularly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff to check rope management by leader and belayer • Potentially consider some appropriate management strategies for first leads depending on climb and student ability. For eg., Supervision from a fixed line nearby, students completing lead on top-rope, fixed rope with loops for gear backup, attempting only very simple first leads, leading routes climbed previously with <i>in situ</i> gear. • Students to demonstrate how to secure and escape the belay system, if possible, and if required to get assistance ... before climbing unsupervised. |
| Protection failure | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students to demonstrate basic understanding and application of protection placement skills at ground level prior to initial leading. • Students have experience seconding climbs and removing protection before leading. • Students are taught to space protection to ensure more than one piece protects any crux moves and prevents a ground or ledge fall. • Students are taught the principles of protection placement self evaluation. |
| Leader off-route | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with students to clarify understanding of where route goes. Students only climb routes that they have discussed with staff when on uni-trips. All changes to route plans must be discussed with staff (in person or by phone). • Students to carry guidebook on climbs if route is confusing, not obvious, or not clear to students. • Supervise students closely from ground or nearby climbs (binoculars help here). • Students encouraged to carry phones so they may be contacted whilst climbing if appropriate and possible, or may contact staff, if possible. • Less competent students will be paired with more competent students on multi-pitch climbs and less-competent students may not lead a pitch on multi-pitch climbs • Students are taught skills to retreat from a climb. |
| Abseil failure | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students to all complete first abseil under supervision (Abseil skills taught in year 1). • Students to demonstrate the ability to run through a checking process which includes: Anchors, rope attachment, belay device, screw gate crabs, harness, ropes on ground/knots in rope, prussik if appropriate/bottom belay. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students will be encouraged to use prusik or bottom belay ... especially if there is a source of distraction (for eg, gear to remove)• Students to demonstrate how to abseil past a knot, and deal with entanglement before climbing unsupervised. |
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Emergency management plans

- Staff and student parties to carry phones
- Staff have stretcher in campground
- Staff have to call 000 in event of accident requiring assistance – medical or cliff rescue
- Staff maintain a written record of where students have gone, to climb what, when they plan to arrive back, and students sign off on their return.