

**Activity Risk Assessment Hodge Close  
Big Abseil**



**National Centre, Lakeside**

YMCA National Centre, Lakeside Newby Bridge  
LA12 8BD Telephone 015395 39000



<b>Name of activity</b>	<b>Hodge Close Big Abseil</b>		<b>Reference number</b>							
<b>Location of activity</b>	Hodge Close		<b>Ratio for activity</b>			2:12				
<b>Level of qualification needed to lead</b>	MIA or RCI/ SPA with in house site specific training and assessment directed by MIC, MIA or IFMGA Mountain Guide									
<b>Level of qualification needed to second</b>	RCI/SPA Training with site visit and in house training and assessment directed by MIC MIA IFMGA Mountain Guide									
<b>This document must be read in conjunction with</b>	<b>Activity Standard Operational Procedures</b>									
<b>Key: L – Likelihood, S – Severity, R – Risk</b>					<b>Risk Score 1- 2 = Low 3- 4 = Medium 5- 6 = High</b>					
<b>Activity Description</b>	<b>Foreseeable Hazard</b>	<b>Who might be harmed and how?</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>Control measures</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>R</b>	
Access to abseil site	Fall into quarry	Any member of the group trip or fall over 200 feet drop into quarry significant bodily injury or fatality	3	3	6	Briefing and group control from leaving the minibus. Clear no go areas set from outset	1	3	4	
Group control at the top of the Abseil site	Fall from the quarry top at the abseil site	Any member of the group at the abseil sight fall from quarry edge significant bodily injury or fatality	3	3	6	Use rigging rope to guard edge and make waiting area Instructor control and awareness and training	1	3	4	
Loose rock on abseil edge	Rocks falling on anybody at the bottom of the abseil	Any group member or Instructor directly under the abseil line	3	3	6	Instructor awareness and group control keeping all clear of the abseil and fall line from small rocks Correct fitting and wearing of PPE helmets at all times	1	3	4	

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Walking or moving around the top of the quarry	Trip slip or fall	Any member of the group fall from the quarry top edge significant bodily injury or fatality	3	3	6	Movement around the quarry site to be supervised by an Instructor anybody near the quarry edge must attached to a rope	1	3	4
Weather conditions Slate very slippery when wet	Trip or slip or fall	Any member of the group cut dew to Sharpe slate bruise or soft tissue injury	3	2	5	Instructor awareness and group control	1	2	3
Waiting at the bottom of Abseil	Rock stone fall from abseiler or group member throwing a stone	Any member of the group waiting or watching having abseiled at the bottom hit on head or bodily impact or fatality	3	3	6	Hazard awareness group control well away from fall line PPE FPE helmets correctly fitted worn at all times Ensure group do not move of and explore the quarry	1	3	4
Movement up out of the quarry to abseil site	Slip or fall	Any member of the group going of route hazardous terrain fall cut bruise	3	2	5	Site knowledge by Instructor supervision of access to and from the bottom to top abseil site	1	2	3
Abseiler	Anchor failure	Any group member abseiling, anchor failure or safety rope failure fall to quarry bottom fatality	2	3	5	Trained NGB qualified and assessed and experienced staff. Anchor points always constructed with redundancy. All PPE FPE equipment regularly checked and inspected	1	3	4

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Abseiler	Equipment failure including ropes	Any member of the group abseiling falling fatality	2	3	5	NGB qualified staff PPE FPE Inspected regularly	1	3	4
Abseiler	Abseiler lets go of their control rope completely	Any member of the group abseiling panic psychological harm	2	2	4	Instructor clear communication and coaching independent safety rope operated by instructor	1	2	3
Abseiler	Abseil device descender becomes jammed	Any member of the group abseiling figure of eight incorrectly feed or clothing or hair or helmet strap jammed. Pain burn trapped fingers or skin stress panic	2	3	5	Instructor hazard awareness check clothing and any straps and figure of eight correctly threaded Releasable abseil constructed by Instructor	1	3	4
Abseiler becomes detached from the safety system	Abseiler Falls	Any member of the group abseiling rope knot or karabiner failure harness failure human error Fall serious bodily injury or fatality	2	3	5	Experienced NGB qualified staff operational procedures include double checking redundancy of belay anchor systems	1	3	4
Abseiler	Abseiler descends to quickly	Abseiler burns hands or fingers	2	3	5	Best practice Instructed. Both hands on control rope for more friction wear glove for long abseil .Use safety to control speed	1	3	4
Abseiler	Swing or Pendulum	Abseiler strays of the fall line swings and impacts shoulder or body on the rock	2	3	5	Instructor observation keep abseiler on the correct line fall line	1	3	4

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Abseiler	Abseiler inverts falls out of harness	Abseiler particularly going over the edge inverts falling out of harness those with larger upper body torso more likely. Serious injury or Fatality	2	3	5	Instructor use of a chest harness when appropriate Use safety rope and variety of best practice methods for starting difficult abseil edges	1	3	4
Any member of the group	Hazardous areas of the quarry including water filled tunnels	Any member of the group exploring the quarry or wondering of bodily injury or fatality	3	3	6	Group control and hazard awareness local knowledge group briefing	1	3	4
Any member of the group	Other group users or members of the public	Any member of the group being injured by other groups or members of the public throwing things or dropping things also distracting behaviour Bodily impact injury	2	3	5	Instructor hazard awareness keep group away from other groups hazard of people above you wearing of correctly adjusted helmets PPE FPE at all times	1	3	4
<b>Written by: Mike Margeson</b>			<b>Date January 2012</b>			<b>Signature Mike Margeson</b>			
<b>Reviewed by: Mike Margeson</b>			<b>Date November 2014</b>			<b>Signature Mike Margeson</b>			
<b>Reviewed by: Mike Margeson</b>			<b>Date November 2016</b>			<b>Signature Mike Margeson</b>			
<b>Reviewed by: Mike Margeson</b>			<b>Date December 2017</b>			<b>Signature Mike Margeson</b>			
<b>Reviewed by: Mike Margeson</b>			<b>Date January 2019</b>			<b>Signature Mike Margeson</b>			

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