

UNDERGROUND EXPLORATION RISK ASSESSMENT

Benefit statement

Underground exploration incorporates caving or mine exploration and provides an opportunity to explore unique underground environments and see evidence of prehistory and geology. Additionally many people overcome personal fears, with support and encouragement from the rest of their group. These activities also represent a physical challenge and give a sense of achievement.

Introductory statement

Currently underground activities are only provided via third party suppliers. OutdoorLads ensure that suppliers have valid insurance covering them for the activity to be delivered. The OutdoorLads Organiser of the activity, is merely there as a liaison between the delivering organisation and OutdoorLads participants.

All participants are asked to share relevant previous & existing medical issues prior to being able to register for the activity. Leader to group ratio amended as required by the delivering organisation. All accidents and incidents are recorded and appropriate action undertaken as required.

CAVING / MINE EXPLORATION			
Hazards arising from activity		Control measure(s) in place to reduce risk from each hazard	Arrangements to ensure the control measure(s) continue to be effectively implemented
GENERAL	Injury due to falling Injury due to falling rock, equipment, other objects Impact with rock Getting stuck Uneven ground / holes / obstacles Loose rocks / bad air Mine hazards (loose rocks, unstable supports / floor, shafts in floor)	Any ascent / descent routes within the cave or routes involving being at height will be protected and managed by the qualified instructor by means of spotting or use of ropes. Clear briefing given at start of session to provide awareness of such hazards and throughout activity to maintain awareness of hazards. Ensure that third party provider has adequate qualifications and insurance to cover the cave system / mine route to be explored. Appropriate equipment to be worn and provided by the supplier including oversuit, light, helmet, belt, boots.	
KIT	Injury due to faulty or ill-fitting equipment Light failure	Clothing issued and set according to member's height and weight. Provider to have appropriate policy.	

WATER	Drowning Flooded system Exposure to cold / wet environment Hypothermia / Hyperthermia	Participants' water confidence is known and confidence in water is made explicit before the participant registers for the activity. Provider to select appropriate system based on weather conditions / water conditions in the cave / mine. Members to wear only appropriate quick-drying clothing made from non-natural fibres.	
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