



Black Rock Outdoors

Core Risk Assessment

(Across All Activities)

Groups at Risk:

Primary Parties: Participants, group leaders, and instructional staff.
Secondary Parties: Spectators, site visitors, and members of the public.

Hazards & Formal Control Measures

1. Adverse Environmental & Weather Conditions

Risk: Extreme temperatures, heavy rainfall, or high winds causing hyperthermia, hypothermia, slips, or equipment failure.

Control Measures:

- Instructors review meteorological reports to confirm suitability.
- Participants are briefed on appropriate seasonal clothing layers before arrival.

2. Site Safety, Remote Locations, & Communication Failures

Risk: Delayed emergency services response due to limited cellular coverage or isolated operational areas.

Control Measures:

- A comprehensive site orientation must be conducted to pre-identify known cellular signal "hotspots."
- A formal "Flight Plan" (detailing precise group locations, activity types, and expected return times) must be logged with a suitable contact.

3. Participant Safeguarding & Unauthorised Public Interventions

Risk: Unvetted individuals gaining access to minors, or participants wandering into restricted, hazardous areas.

Control Measures:

- Staff must maintain strict situational awareness, proactively questioning any unidentified individuals within the activity perimeter.
- A headcount protocol must be enforced during transitions.
- Visiting group staff (e.g., school teachers) are responsible to directly chaperone participants during bathroom breaks or transitions away from the main group.

4. Agricultural Hazards & Active Farm Machinery

Risk: Impact or entanglement injuries from heavy plant machinery, or exposure to hazardous livestock zones.

Control Measures:

- Clear "Out of Bounds" perimeters must be established and communicated during the initial safety briefing.
- Movement around active farming sectors is strictly prohibited.

5. Medical Emergencies & Unforeseen Personal Injury

Risk: Acute illness, exacerbation of pre-existing medical conditions, or trauma injuries during activities.

Control Measures:

- All leading instructors hold valid, activity-appropriate First Aid qualifications and have access a first aid kit.
- Personal medication (e.g., asthma inhalers, EpiPens) must be accessible and carried by the participant or designated leader at all times.
- Designated leader to take lead role in first aid incidents when possible to prevent unnecessary disruption of the activity.

6. Unauthorised or Unsupervised Equipment Use

Risk: Intrusions resulting in falls from height, equipment damage, or severe injury via unsupervised access to specialised gear.

Control Measures:

- Safety signage must be deployed at all structural perimeters to deter unauthorised access.
- Access ladders for high ropes elements are securely padlocked overnight.
- All technical hardware are stored in a locked, secure facility overnight.

7. Behavioural Disruption & Non-Compliance

Risk: Loss of situational awareness, failure to follow critical safety commands, and wilful distraction leading to injury.

Control Measures:

- Instructors must establish a formal code of conduct and emergency stop signals before starting any activity.
- Accompanying group staff must actively monitor peripheral behaviour to support the instructor.
- A graduated intervention protocol to be utilised (verbal correction, role re-assignment, or immediate extraction from the session).

8. Sun & Ultraviolet (UV) Radiation Exposure

Risk: Severe sunburn, sunstroke, or dehydration during prolonged exposure on open fields (archery, team building) or open water, which amplifies UV reflection.

Control Measures:

- The designated leader to ensure all minors are wearing sun screen.
- Instructors to build scheduled shaded hydration breaks into the session plan.

9. Near-Miss, Incident, and Trauma Reporting Failures

Risk: Failure to log or address minor incidents or near-misses, leading to uncorrected systemic safety hazards or breaches of local safety reporting laws.

Control Measures:

- All staff must be briefed on the mandatory operational procedure to log any safety anomaly or "near-miss" in the central digital registry within 24 hours.
- Post-incident debriefs must be structurally executed by senior management to adapt controls dynamically if an incident occurs.

10. Equipment Degradation & Structural Fatigue

Risk: Structural failure of high ropes elements, worn climbing ropes, frayed raft lashings, or cracked paddlesport hulls during active use leading to failure.

Control Measures:

- A formal PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) logging system must be maintained, pre-use visual checks by instructors before every session.
- Equipment must be immediately quarantined and flagged for destruction if it shows signs of excessive wear or fails a pre-session check.
- All equipment to be continually monitored throughout activity.

11. Manual Handling & Lifting Injuries

Risk: Injuries and strains, while moving heavy equipment (e.g., carrying open canoes, hauling raft-building logs/barrels, or ladders).

Control Measures:

- Instructors to demonstrate a lifting safe lifting technique before equipment transit, emphasising team-lifting techniques.

Water Hazards & Specific Control Measures

12. Immersion, Cold Water Shock, & Drowning

Risk: Asphyxiation via water immersion, cold water shock response, or physical exhaustion while in the lake.

Control Measures:

- Mandatory Personal Flotation: 100% compliance is required for the correct donning, sizing, and fastening of checked, CE-approved buoyancy aids or lifejackets before entering the water margin.
- Un-chaperoned swimming is forbidden; water entry is limited explicitly to structured craft-based or planned immersion activities.
- Active Lifesaving Provision: Instructors must possess a valid water safety or paddlesport safety award, and maintain a clear line of sight across the entire fleet at all times.

13. Waterborne Pathogens & Diseases

Risk: Exposure to pathogens like Weil's Disease (Leptospirosis) from rat urine or Blue-Green Algae (Cyanobacteria) blooms in the lake, causing severe bacterial illness or skin/respiratory reactions

Control Measures:

- Instructors inspect the lake surface for toxic blue-green algae.
- Open wounds to be sealed with waterproof dressings.
- Hand hygiene protocols must be enforced before eating.
- Post-session showering is recommended.