



Southampton University Mountaineering Club

Risk Assessment: Multipitch Climbing

Activity or Task	Multipitch Climbing
Assessor (Position)	Charlotte Mercer (Safety and Skills)
Date	03/10/2021

Activity Description	This risk assessment outlines the risks, as well as precautions, associated with climbs which require several different sections or pitches to complete. These sections of climbing are generated out by several anchor points. Multipitch climbing can be involved with both traditional and sport climbs.
Additional Notes	The risk assessments for traditional and sports climbing are to be used in conjunction with this risk assessment when climbing multipitch climbs.

Checked by (Position)	Charlotte Mercer (Safety and Skills)
Date	03/10/2021
Checked by (Position)	Adam Jones (Vice President)
Date	03/10/2021

Risk Assessment: Multipitch Climbing

Hazard	Effect	Inherent Risk			Controls	Residual Risk		
		Likelihood	Severity	Risk		Likelihood	Severity	Risk
Building anchors which are not suitable for multipitch use.	Personal Injury (cuts, breaks, sprains, falls, death, concussions), Injury to others (cuts, breaks, sprains, falls death, concussions)	3	4	Medium	Lead climber must be confident in making and securing anchors before climbing begins. All anchors made must be capable of holding multidirectional falls. Lead climber must ensure there is space for a second to be secured by at least two pieces of the anchor while the lead climber themselves is still secured.	2	3	Low
Fatigue / exhaustion	Personal Injury (cuts, breaks, sprains, falls, death, concussions), Injury to others (cuts, breaks, sprains, falls death, concussions)	3	3	Medium	Climbers must ensure that the grades of all sections of multipitch is within their ability before climb. Climbers should bring suitable food and water for duration of climb.	1	2	Low
Weather/Benightment	Personal Injury (cuts, breaks, sprains, falls, death, concussions), Injury to others (cuts, breaks, sprains, falls death, concussions)	4	2	Low	Climbers should check conditions before climb as well as checking time of sunset. Climbers should consider these conditions alongside the estimated time of the climb. Extra layers / headtorch should be taken onto climb if appropriate.	2	1	Low
Escape from partway up route	Personal Injury (cuts, breaks, sprains, falls, death, concussions)	3	4	Medium	Lead climber should be confident in abseiling abilities before beginning climb. Climbers must also assess route before starting to climb to ensure they know of several escape routes if required. At least one climber in group should also be familiar with self rescue techniques.	3	2	Low
Dehydration	Personal Injury (cuts, breaks, sprains, falls, death, concussions)	3	3	Medium	Climbers must take suitable water onto multipitch climb, and ensure they are hydrated before climbing begins.	1	2	Low

Risk Assessment: Multipitch Climbing

Hazard	Effect	Inherent Risk			Controls	Residual Risk		
		Likelihood	Severity	Risk		Likelihood	Severity	Risk
Hypothermia	Shock	3	4	Medium	Climbers must ensure suitable clothing is taken onto a multipitch route for weather conditions. Weather conditions must be checked by climbers before climbing begins. If weather is too cold climbing must not be undertaken.	1	3	Low
SARS-CoV-2 (Novel Coronavirus)	COVID-19 (Flu-like symptoms, death in those who are at risk, transmission to those at risk, transmission to those not at risk leading to an epidemic)	5	3	High	Climbers must use hand sanitiser before/after climbs. If any person(s) show any symptoms of COVID-19 they must not attend event. Large number of members should not be brought on trip to ensure centre is not overcrowded. If participating in a club meet, attendees must be able to provide evidence of a negative lateral flow test.	2	3	Low