

Jacobs Ladder Risk Assessment				
Written by	Ben Pearse Team Leader	Date reviewed	December 2025	Description of activity: Take on Jacobs Ladder with a team on our purpose-built high ropes course
Reviewed by	Sam Fenton Deputy Manager	Date of next review	December 2026	Qualifications required for activity: ERCA Traditional High Ropes Instructor (4 ropes) ERCA onsite High Ropes (2 ropes) Ratio 1:12 & 1 group leader



What could go wrong?	Who is at risk?	What controls are put in place
Hot weather Dehydration, sun burn and sun stroke	Participants Staff	Participants Encourage participants to stay hydrated. If participants are visibly unwell we will get them to sit in the shade so they can lower their internal temperature. Staff Staff will need to come prepared for the sessions with the correct clothing and sufficient water for the session.
Wind and rain Hyperthermia, getting wet	Participants Staff	Participants Ensure that all participants are wearing suitable clothing for the weather conditions and the session. If participants are visually unwell ask them to cover up in suitable clothing. Staff All staff working in the outdoors must be prepared for all weather conditions so should all be wearing correct clothing.
Extreme weather Extreme winds, lightening	Participants Staff	Instructor to make sure the weather forecast has been checked before session to make sure that conditions are okay to run the activity in. The session cannot be run in winds exceeding 30 MPH session can also not be ran in lightening.

Slips, Trips, Falls Head injuries, sprains, cuts and other injuries	Participants Staff	Instructor to remind all participants and other members of staff to walk within the session areas while checking the ground for ground anchors and to walk when carrying any equipment.
High ropes structure damage Minor, major and critical injuries	Participants Staff	Instructor to carry out the daily check sheet before setting up the activity to ensure that the structure is safe for use.
Unauthorised access to high ropes area Falling from height, minor, major, critical injuries.	Participants Staff Other site users	High ropes area to have clear signage saying that no participants is allowed inside the high ropes area without an Eaton Vale member of staff
Equipment failure Minor, major and critical injuries	Participants Staff	Instructor to check all equipment before, during and at the end of each session. Making sure any damaged equipment is changed and noted to be checked by management.
Broken equipment Minor, major and critical injuries	Participants Staff	Instructor to make sure all equipment is check when setting up and any damaged or broke equipment is not used and moved away from other equipment and noted to management.
Manual handling Musclue strains, back injuries	Participants Staff	Instructor to show and help participants move equipment with right technique to prevent injuries.
Poor leadership & instructing Minor, major and critical injuries	Participants Staff	Instructor to maintain control of the group by setting rules where needed to ensure the session is ran safety. Such as where participants can and can't be during different parts of the session, that when the instructor is talking all participants are listening, all equipment must be used in the way the instructor has shown throughout the session.
Falling objects Head injuries, minor, major, critical injuries	Participants Staff	Instructor to ensure that all participants helmets must stay on while inside the climbing area and can only be removed once they have left the area. And that if helmets are removed they are checked again by the instructor before re-entering and before climbing.
Misuse of equipment Falls, minor, major and critical injuries	Participants Staff	Instructor is to demonstrate how to use all equipment correctly to limit the chance of misuse, this will be in a form of a safety brief at the start of the session showing participants how to belay safely.
Entrapment Panic, stress, bruises, minor, major and critical injuries	Participants Staff	Instructor to remind participants to not pull on their ropes and to not tangle their arms, legs and head within the ropes at any point during the session.
Long hair, loose clothing and jewellery	Participants Staff	Instructor to make sure all participants remove any loose clothing, jewellery and tie long hair back to lower the chance of it becoming trapped

Entrapment, Shock, Damage to clothing, Damage to equipment.		
Stones	Participants Staff	Instructor to remind all participants not to play or throw with the stones on the floor.
Head injuries, minor, major injuries and choking		
Metal cables	Participants Staff	Instructor to make sure participants are not touching the meatal cables or using them to climb throughout the session.
Metal splinters, minor, major injuries		