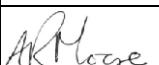


Activity Risk Assessment

Activity	Crate Stack				
Address of premises	Hesley Wood Activity Centre, White Lane, Chapeltown, S35 2YH				
Author of this risk assessment	Megan Hughes				
Issue Date	24/04/2024				
Review	This document is reviewed annually. We can review it sooner if needed.				
Reviewed by	Luke Joseph / Alyssa Jordan	Date	13/10/2025	Changes?	Yes, see review page
Reviewed by	Luke Kitching	Date	01/06/2026	Changes?	Yes, see review page
Checked by Operations Director	 Andy Moore	Date	16/06/2026		

Explanation of Risk Rating: Risk Rating = Probability x Severity			Probability			Rating	Actions resulting from Risk Rating
			Unlikely 1	Likely 2	Certain 3		
Severity	1	Minor injury or damage	1	2	3	1-3	Low Risk: Carry on, ensuring controls are in place. No further controls required.
	2	Major injury or damage	2	4	6	4-6	Medium Risk: Implement extra controls if practical to reduce risk to low. Monitor risk level to ensure no increase.
	3	Severe injury or damage, Serious illness or death.	3	6	9	7-9	High Risk: Stop activity immediately. Implement further controls to reduce risk if possible. Find alternative method.

The Hesley Management Team will monitor and review the controls to reduce risk in accordance with South Yorkshire Scouts Health & Safety Policy.

The information contained within this Risk Assessment should be taken as the minimum requirement and is not to be considered exhaustive.

What is the hazard? How might people be harmed?	Risk Level (with existing control measures)			Who is at risk?	What are the control measures?
	Probability	Severity	Rating		
Normal hazards associated with crate stack (i.e. falls from height, impact with something solid)	2	2	4	Participants, Instructors, Intruders.	All Crate stacking sessions follow guidelines set by the Technical Advisor (TA), recognised by Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and Mountain Training standards. Sessions use techniques aligned with standard operation of crate stack. Instructors must complete the Hesley Wood in-house training and be assessed by an approved external assessor. Helmets to be worn by everyone in the crate stacking area whilst session are running
Structure failure	2	2	4	All involved	The crate stacking structure undergoes an annual inspection by a certified professional to ensure compliance with national regulatory standards. In addition, Hesley Wood staff perform pre-use safety checks before each session to verify the integrity and safety of the structure.
Equipment failure	2	2	4	All involved	Only Hesley Wood equipment is permitted for use during sessions at Hesley Wood. All equipment undergoes regular inspections and is documented in accordance with Hesley Wood/Industry standard current inspection policy to ensure safety and compliance.
Hazards arising from the actions of 'non qualified assistants	2	2	4	Participants	Staff responsible for leading the sessions must delegate responsibility appropriately to competent persons whilst still overseeing general safety.
Unauthorised use – Usual risks associated with crate stack	1	2	2	Intruders	Crate stacking area is fenced off. Gate to be locked when not in use. "No Unauthorised Entry" signs in place.
Weather: Thunderstorms, high wind, heavy rain.	1	2	2	All involved	Sessions may be cancelled or delayed due to thunderstorms, high winds or heavy rain, where operation can become dangerous. See weather policy for more details

Hazards arising from the actions of group members i.e. Disorderly behaviour and Overcrowding causing distractions	2	2	4	All Involved	To prevent overcrowding and ensure safe supervision, maintain a maximum group size of 12 participants with 2 observers for sessions lasting up to one hour. For sessions extending to 90 minutes, group size may increase to 15 participants, provided additional observers are available to maintain effective oversight and participant safety throughout. The Group Leader needs to be present during sessions. If a group members behaviour becomes dangerous follow the Emergency Action Plan (EAP) for Disorderly Behaviour
---	---	---	---	--------------	--

What is the hazard? How might people be harmed?	Risk Level (with existing control measures)			Who is at risk?	What are the control measures?
	Probability	Severity	Rating		
Hazards arising from rescues	1	2	2	All Involved	The prescribed rescue procedure has been designed by an independent external assessor, and all crate instructors have been assessed as competent on the rescue procedure.
Hazards relating to crates. Falling Crates	3	2	6	All Involved	Everyone in the crate stack area must wear a helmet. Participants are told not to look at falling crates, but to look ahead. 3 red cones are used to show where the safe area is for the participants. Participants are instructed to go to the safe area if the instructor deems there is a risk of falling crates. Maximum height of the crate stack is 16 crates tall; maximum of 32 crates being used. Instructions given on what to do if the crates are falling or if the tower is going to be knocked down i.e. try to move out of the way or make sure not to look at the crates. Before tower is knocked over participants to go behind cones

Hazards relating to crates. Throwing crates i.e. dangerous throwing styles being hit with a crate	2	3	6	All Involved	Safe throwing of crates to be demonstrated/explained by instructor before any throwing takes place. Throwing of crates should only be done if appropriate for the group. If throwing becomes dangerous the instructor should stop participants from throwing and offer an alternative. Any group members that are not holding the tower or throwing should move away from throwing area.
Hazards relating to crates. Lifting of crates	2	2	4	Participants	Safe lifting of crates to be demonstrated/explained by instructor before any lifting takes place. Lifting of crates should only be done if appropriate for the group, if lifting becomes dangerous, instructor should stop participants and offer an alternative. The tower should be lifted by two young people, or by an adult. If the adult indicates it's too heavy to lift to the instructor, the instructor will then end that persons turn. Participants are warned not to trap fingers under crates when lifting the tower.
Hazards relating to crates. Standing on crates i.e. falling and reaction time	2	2	4	Participants	Participants should only stand on crates if attached to a safety rope. This is to be covered by the instructor in the safety brief and reinforced as needed throughout the session.
Tracer cord falls/is removed	1	3	3	Instructors	Instructors to contact senior management to assist getting tracer or rope back into pulley.

The section below is for specific groups only. This could be any group that requires extra help or specific bits of equipment in order for them to participate.

What is the hazard? How might people be harmed?	Risk Level (with existing control measures)			Who is at risk?	What are the control measures?
	Probability	Severity	Rating		
Staff qualification	1	3	4	All involved	Only staff who have successfully completed the required “ Climb for All ” training are permitted to operate and use the specialised equipment designed for participants requiring additional support. Staff certification will be saved in their personal files that’s kept on share point (Hesley Wood online system).
Manufacturers guidelines	1	2	3	Staff	The equipment that is used must not exceed the manufactures guidelines and must stay in the scope. Use the equipment the way it is intended to be used.
Safety standards	1	2	3	Staff	Equipment will receive pre-use visual inspections before sessions start. Equipment to be checked by staff that have a relevant PPE qualification every 6 months. Qualifications include; • 3-day ROSPA • 1-day Inspection of PPE – Competent Person Staff to make sure the equipment is fitted correctly and only used for its intended use.
Non-specific equipment	1	2	3	All involved	Staff must only use the specialised equipment if the participants need it. Staff MUST NEVER use any other piece of equipment, making sure they don’t go outside of the manufacture’s guidelines.
Participant information and disclosure.	1	2	3	All involved	Staff must be aware before sessions go ahead of the group’s ability. Staff to understand what individual participants may or may not be able to do and therefore need to know the following things; • Medical conditions

- Physical limitations
- Neurodivergent or sensory needs
- Behavioural support
- Communication needs

Related Risk Documents

Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for Crate Stack, Review Log – Crate Stack, Inspection and Replacement policy, EAP for Overcrowding, EAP for Disorderly Behaviour and EAP for Structural Failure

Review Log

Reviewed by	Date of review	Reason for review	Changes made	Actions required	If actions have been completed insert date completed
Dan McKinlay	20/12/2024	Tec assessment	Additional information regarding tracer lines, and cones.	Administrative only	20/12/2024
Luke Joseph / Alyssa Jordan	23/10/25	Annual review	Changed wording “fixed wheel pulley” to “pulley”		30/10/2025
Luke Kitching	01/06/2026	Added section for specific groups and equipment	Added separate table which goes through the specifics regarding using specialised equipment for groups requiring ‘climb for all’ help. Signed off by Dan Mkinley (technical advisor).	Staff to be trained in ‘climb for all’ and admin to sign off.	16/06/2026

See Review Log – Crate Stack for previous reviews and changes

Version 2 publication date: ?

Version 3 publication date 16.06.2026