

RISK ANALYSIS & MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

FOR: CAVING for commercial experiences Black Labyrinth and Black Abyss

LAST UPDATED: 8/09/2025

BWR Operations Manager

v1.7

UNDESIRE	OUTSIDE CAVE			
	Accident on way to cave		Leaving equipment behind	
	Late start to activity		Medical emergency/allergic reaction	
	Stolen property		Weather affected road conditions	
	IN CAVE			
	Severe cold or hypothermia		Equipment failure	
	Drowning		Injury from equipment failure	
	Psychological distress		Injury from falling person or object	
	Claustrophobia		Injury from tripping or falling	
	Customer fatigue/stress		Damage to equipment	
CAUSAL FACTOR	PEOPLE		EQUIPMENT	ENVIRONMENT
	OUTSIDE CAVE		OUTSIDE CAVE	OUTSIDE CAVE
	Unskilled drivers		Poor vehicle maintenance	Multiple hazards on road Hazardous road conditions
	Overseas drivers		Incorrect equipment for cave	
	Lack of adequate planning		No equipment check sheet	
	Inappropriate tour for client ability			
	IN CAVE		IN CAVE	IN CAVE
	Poor customer ability		Unsuitable group equipment	Cold
	Peer pressure		Inadequate food/hot drinks	Wet
	Poor communication		Inadequately maintained equipment	Slippery surfaces
Pre-existing medical conditions		Inadequate emergency equipment	Loose rocks	
Poor understanding of activity		Poor lighting	Confined spaces	
RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES	OUTSIDE CAVE		OUTSIDE CAVE	OUTSIDE CAVE
	Guides correctly licenced		Vehicle maintenance up to date	Drive for the conditions
	Drive defensively		Vehicle checks before use	Check weather before using
	Plan appropriate trip for group		Pack correct equipment for cave (see appropriate folder)	
	Obtain pertinent medical and ability information		First aid kit in vehicle	
	Disclose activity risk		Equipment checked before use	
			Equipment logged after trips	
			Phone system maintained	
	IN CAVE		IN CAVE	IN CAVE
	Appropriately trained & experienced staff		First aid kit carried at all times	Choose safest route
RELEVANT INDUSTRY STANDARDS APPLICABLE	RECORDING & ANALYSIS		EMERGENCY	
	Recording & analysis of accident/incidents for staff training and site management		Appropriate specialist equipment available for use	
	Disclose activity risk		Anchors/rigging/infrastructure checked before use	
	Actively manage group safety during activity			
	First aid kit to be carried on all trips		Communication with Ops	
	Hot drink and food to be available on all trips		Get latest conditions before going underground	
	High/fast rising water alerts communicated			
	NZTA vehicle licensing regulations			
	NZTA driver regulations			
	HSA & Adventure Activity Regulations			
NZOIA cave syllabus				
NZSS caver guidelines				
BWR staff training manual				
NZQA unit standards				
POLICIES AND	All lead guides to have a first aid certificate			

RECOMMENDED GUIDELINES	All clients given risk disclosure statement & complete medical form before partaking in activity Cancel trips where there is a defined risk from flooding or the water is over specific operating levels during bad weather Appropriate ratios for group management Staff and clients to wear all supplied PPE Staff have the right to stop the activity at any time for H&S reasons		
REQUIRED STAFF SKILLS	Good group management and facilitation skills Risk and crisis management skills Site specific training Knowledge of company policy and procedure Site specific rescue procedures Fit and proper state for work Relevant in house training		
TRIP SPECIFIC RISK MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS	BLACK LABYRINTH	BLACK ABYSS	TRAINING SITES
	Ratio 1:6 for streamway passages	Ratio 2:8 to the Ledge, 1:6 for streamway passages	to be added
	Ratio may increase in extraordinary circumstances. Abyss can also be run as a top-rope abseil, 1:1 ratio		<i>Base SRT training tower</i>
	12 years / 45kg recommended 55cm limit on WF gauge Cold Deep water	(This includes dry passages) 16 years / 45kg recommended 55cm limit on WF gauge Cold Abseiling	<i>HTG Tower</i> <i>Gardner's</i>
	Wetsuits supplied	Deep water	RUAKURI CAVE
	Helmet & light supplied	Helmet & light supplied	Ratio 1:18
	Boots supplied	Wetsuits supplied	No unaccompanied children
	Fleece top supplied	Boots supplied	Wheelchairs/pushchairs <65cm width
	Inner tube supplied	Inner tube supplied	
		Fleece top supplied	
		Harness/connectors supplied	