



**RISK ASSESSMENT – Powerfan Descender PF13**

VERTIGO ADVENTURES – Stanborough Park

Risk Assessment carried out by Darren Webber

Feb 2024 – Feb 2025

**KEY**  
 Severity = 1 Low – 5 High  
 Likelihood = 1 Low – 5 High  
 S + L = **Low 1 – 3** **Med 4 – 7**  
**High 8 - 10**

HAZARD IDENTIFIED	PERSON AFFECTED	RISK SEVERITY + LIKELIHOOD			CONTROL MEASURES	RISK SEVERITY + LIKELIHOOD		
		S	L	S+L		S	L	S+L
Walking into Powerfan zone unattached	Instructor/Participants	2	2	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instructor to attach themselves before starting any session.</li> <li>Instructor to let one person through the gate at a time and attach immediately to the lanyard before bringing anyone through to the Powerfan zone.</li> <li>Instructor to ensure the gate is shut at all times. To stop people walking through.</li> <li>Instructor to brief all explaining not to come through the gate unless instructed to be an instructor.</li> </ul>	1	1	2

<b>Rope getting twisted with drope</b>	Instructor/Participants	4	4	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instructor to be vigilant when attaching drope to participant. Making sure ropes are not twisted.</li> <li>• Instructor is not to detach lanyard until checks have been done. In accordance with the opps procedures.</li> </ul>	4	1	5
<b>Swinging motion when descending resulting in hitting platform</b>	Participants	4	3	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instructor to brief and demonstrate to participants how to step off the Powerfan. In accordance with opps procedures.</li> <li>• Instructor to hold absorbica to control participant and initiate any movements needed.</li> <li>• If participant has leaned to far forward instructor to shout 'step!'</li> </ul>	2	1	3
<b>Instructor getting pulled off platform</b>	Instructor	5	2	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instructor to make sure lanyard is attached at all times.</li> </ul>	2	1	3

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instructor to make sure lanyard is out of grabbing reach.</li> <li>• Instructor to brief and demonstrate to participants where to put hands when participating in the Powerfan. In accordance with opps procedures.</li> </ul>			
<b>Helmet getting caught on platform</b>	Participant	4	2	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instructor to brief and demonstrate to participants how to step off the Powerfan. In accordance with opps procedures.</li> <li>• Sitting down on the Powerfan is a last resort and should not be the go to for participants to successfully complete the challenge. However, if instructors use this method they must ensure to lean the participant forward so that the participant does not scrap their back down the</li> </ul>	2	1	3

					platform and consequently causing a hazard with the helmet.			
<b>Getting hurt on landing</b>	Participant	3	3	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instructor to brief and demonstrate to participants how to land the Powerfan. In accordance with opps procedures.</li> <li>• Instructor at the bottom to physically support on landing.</li> <li>• Instructors at the bottom to shout to the participant 'bend legs' when coming to the ground.</li> <li>• Daily visual inspection to ensure landing area is clear and stones are correctly placed for a softer landing.</li> </ul>	2	2	4
<b>Landing on someone</b>	Participant	3	3	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instructor at bottom to make sure area is clear. Everyone should be behind the chains/rope which are clearly marked.</li> </ul>	2	1	3

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication between top and bottom instructor is needed to confirm it is safe to for next participant (so get ready). In accordance with opps procedures.</li> </ul>			
<b>Slack in system when stepping off</b>	Participant	2	4	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instructor to hold absorbica to control participant and initiate any movements needed.</li> <li>• Instructor to be vigilant to the slack in the system and to stop any eager participant from stepping when there is slack.</li> <li>• Instructor to give the participant a count down. All should be briefed to go on the instructors cue only and not before.</li> </ul>	1	2	3
<b>Hanging on via hands</b>	Participant	3	2	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instructor to brief and demonstrate to participants where to put hands when participating in the Powerfan. In</li> </ul>	2	1	3

					accordance with opps procedures.			
<b>Stepping off platform with lanyard still attached</b>	Participant	2	2	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lanyard is too short for the participant to go to the edge.</li> <li>Instructors to ensure all checks are done before stepping off.</li> </ul>	1	1	2
<b>Attachment misplaced (e.g., attached onto hood)</b>	Participant	5	3	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instructor to clearly see attachment point and full connection of attachment to the Powerfan.</li> <li>Karabiner to be double checked by instructor.</li> <li>Participant should feel the Powerfan slightly pulling them forward. Instructor will be able to see the drope tight, before allowing a participant to step off.</li> </ul>	2	1	3