



Normal Operating Procedure (inc. Risk Assessment) Possum Glider

Risk Profile

The following risks have been identified through PGL's risk assessment process:

- a. Extreme weather.
- b. Injury from participation/physical exertion.
- c. Fatigue/exhaustion/dehydration.
- d. Injury due to incorrect set-up and operation/belaying.
- e. Injury from falling objects.
- f. Collision/entanglement with elements/structures/equipment/people.
- g. Entrapment of hair, fingers, loose clothing, etc. in element or operating structure.
- h. Splinter injury from pole.
- i. Injury from cables and cable clamps.
- j. Tear/de-gloving injuries from rings and other jewellery.
- k. Danger of ground fall from.
 - i. Poor belaying or lowering.
 - ii. Lack of supervision of belayers.
 - iii. Intentional misuse of equipment and systems.
 - iv. Incorrect attachment.
 - v. Poor fitting of harnesses.
 - vi. Equipment failure.
- l. Rope burn injury.
- m. Slips/trips/low to ground falls.

Implementation of the following operating procedures reduces the residual risk to a level as low as reasonably practicable given the intended purpose of the activity.

Control Measure

Deployment Requirements

Instructor Qualifications:	Centre based training by Approved Ropes Trainer and assessment by PGL Approved Assessor.
Instructor – Participant ratio:	1:15
Total group size:	15
Active participation:	1: 1
Active participation:	All guests should be active hoisting or on the possum glider.



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1. Equipment Requirements

Per Activity Base:

- 1 x 45m 11mm rope
- 1 x ISC Rope grab
- 1 x 120cm Sling
- 1 x Single swing cheek pulley
- 1 x Short section of static rope cut to length
- 1 x Protective tube
- 2 x Steel HMS trip lock karabiners (3D krabs)
- 6 x Aluminium HMS trip lock karabiners (3D krabs)

2. Guest & Instructor equipment requirements

Per Instructor:

- 1 x Helmet
- 1 x Pair of gloves

Per Participating Guest:

- 1 x Helmet
- 1 x Sit harness
- 1 x Chest harness
- 1 x Combi sling
- 1 x HMS karabiner

3. Specific Clothing Requirements

- Trousers or long shorts
- Flat soled shoes or boots unable to slip off
- Long hair tied back
- Jewellery removed where possible, or made safe
- Where a chest harness is worn, a top or t-shirt must be worn that covers the individual's shoulders
- Loose items removed from pockets
- Any items constituting a risk of entanglement removed

4. Session Preparation

- a. Instructor to carry out a routine visual inspection of the element and activity area, checking the integrity of the whole element (to include poles, ladders, high lap splices, anchor points and guys, etc.), as per 'daily rope inspection checks.doc'.
- b. If built in a wooded area, check for fallen branches or unsafe trees.
- c. If the instructor has any concerns about the integrity and safe use of the element and activity area, then they should raise this with the appropriate senior staff member, prior to any activity taking place.
- d. All set-ups must be rigged in accordance with PGL/MIC Technical Advisor approved methods/policy.
- e. If ladders are used, they must be secured in line with PGL ladder policy.



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- f. Access to adjacent activity areas must be restricted during the session i.e. Jacob's Ladder rungs.
- g. Instructor to visually & physically check the integrity and setup of all PPE to be used, including twists in any straps and amount of PPE for the group.
- h. Instructors should prepare themselves for the session ahead by ensuring they are aware of relevant group information and have a broad session plan which can be finalised when meeting the group.

5. Session Instruction

- a. Instructor must deliver an intro and safety briefing as detailed in the ACOP.
- b. Guests should not pick up the hauling rope until invited to do so by the instructor.
- c. Instructor must ensure the hauling runway is clear of obstructions before each dispatch.
- d. At the beginning of their go participants must run in the direction of swing. They should not drop to their knees and expect to be lifted clear of the ground.
- e. Judgement should be used by the instructor to ensure there are sufficient haulers to lift the participant. If there is deemed to be a risk of injury through over exertion, then the lift must not proceed.
- f. There must be a physical barrier preventing guest proximity to the rope grab and pulley. This barrier may not be passed by guests during hauling.
- g. Instructor to remain clear of the rope, rope grab and pulley during hauling.
- h. Overhauling should be avoided using the method detailed in the ACOP.
- i. Should a guest not wish to go any higher or appear distressed in any way, then the hauling team should be instructed to stop and the lowering procedure followed.
- j. The session may be developed to incorporate 'circular swings'. If this is the case the instructor must ensure that the group control the haul sufficiently to avoid any impact with the structure.
- k. All haulers must remain holding the rope until the participant has returned to the ground.
- l. Lowering must be done at a steady speed and is controlled by the instructor. If at any point the lower becomes too fast the instructor must reengage the rope grab and reiterate the lowering procedure.

6. Session Conclusion

- a. Ensure activity area is left clear and in a safe condition.
 - b. Ensure that unauthorised/unsupervised access to the Possum Glider is prevented.
 - c. Any faults/concerns with the structural integrity should be reported to a senior member of staff.
 - d. Any relevant accidents/incidents/events must be recorded on the relevant report form or centre logbook.
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