

## Cavebus Risk Assessments:

1. Running a cavebus session (standard) not including Covid
2. Covid Secure Risk Assessment for Cavebuses
3. Cavebus cleaning schedule

Please ensure that you read and comply with the risk assessments, these risk assessments are considered to ensure that the activities are kept as safe as possible at all times.

# Running a standard cavebus session

Name of activity, event, and location	<p>1. Running a standard cavebus session <i>(See additional Covid secure risk assessment for using / working on cavebuses during the pandemic)</i></p> <p>All locations, this risk assessment is suitable for use with Cavebuses only (due to their unique ventilation and emergency access systems, it would not be appropriate to use this risk assessment for other confined space activities).</p>	Date of risk assessment	1 June 2021 Last Review – Jan 2024 (no changes)	Name of person doing this risk assessment	<p>Gary McCune</p> <p>Content taken from initial Cavebus RA by Mark Hoyle and adapted to reflect static bus on site at Raywell Park.</p>
		Date of next review	As guidance changes that affect this Risk Assessment		

Hazards	Who is at risk? (Level of risk)	How are the risks already controlled? What extra controls are needed?	Risk (after control measures)	Further controls.
Bodily injuries. (Bumps, Scrapes, Falls).	Participants, Instructors, Maintenance Staff.  (Low risk)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All participants must wear a helmet when inside the cavebus (including entering and exiting the cavebus). Participants and instructors must wear appropriate clothing (covering all limbs).</li> <li>Participants will stay at least two metres away from each other in the cavebus at all times. Participants to be briefed to leave space between each other on entry.</li> <li>Instructors familiar with the cavebus layout (including the emergency exits and emergency passageway).</li> <li>Read the short risk assessment to the participants and ask them questions to check understanding.</li> <li>Event staff to only be left with the activity when they feel competent.</li> <li>Instructors aware of first aid facilities (may not always be onboard, but may be provided by the organising event/location).</li> <li>All emergency exit doors fastened from the outside to stop them failing. Design of the doors makes them failsafe, so that it is not possible to drop an emergency door into the cave system.</li> </ul>	Low	
Safety equipment	Participants, Instructors, Maintenance Staff.  (Low risk)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instructors only to allow access to participants who have: correctly fitted helmets,</li> <li>Participants must have suitable clothing that does not restrict movement,</li> <li>No wearing of jewellery on (rings, earrings, watches).</li> <li>Instructors refuse access to the activity if the participant refuses to wear a helmet or appropriate fitting helmet is not available.</li> <li>Instructor or competent adult to check helmets and clothing for appropriate fit.</li> <li>Instructors are to visually check that nothing restricts participants movement or could catch/snag/cause entrapment in the cave.</li> </ul>	Low	

Headlamp failure	Participants, Instructors, Maintenance Staff.  (Low risk)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brief participants not to worry if their lights fail; and have a spare torch handy to pass to participants. Inform participants that if they are worried, shout for help and an instructor will open the access door to assist.</li> <li>Instructors familiar with cave system layout, comfortable about being in confined space and have undergone site specific training.</li> <li>If necessary open emergency exit doors to allow light into passage to calm any panicking participant.</li> </ul>	Low	
Panic / Claustrophobia	Participants, Instructors, Maintenance Staff.  (Low risk)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brief participants not to panic, to ask for help and describe where in the cave they are. No part of the cave is more than 5m from an emergency exit.</li> <li>Instructor to open the nearest emergency hatches and assist participants to exit the cave. Instructors familiar with layout, comfortable about being in confined space and have undergone site specific training.</li> <li>Show nervous participants the cave from an emergency exit so that they can make an informed choice about using the activity.</li> <li>Do not pressure any participant and stop any peer pressuring immediately.</li> </ul>	Low	
Entrapment / Evacuation	Participants, Instructors, Maintenance Staff.  (Low risk)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instructor to immediately open all hatches (allowing as much air and light in as possible). Use an available helmet/ light to light up the passage and allow the trapped participant to see around them.</li> <li>Assist and talk participants into freeing themselves by reversing their manoeuvres. In extreme circumstances assist in freeing the participant through pushing or pulling (where appropriate and necessary).</li> <li>Second instructor/supporter to assist all other participants to exit the cave where appropriate.</li> <li>All participants to be informed about exit doors and exiting the cave system safely. Ask all removed participants to wait at a designated point.</li> <li>Ask participant to turn 45 degrees to the floor of the cave passageway in standard cave passageways. Standard passages are 18 inch squared; by taking the 45 degree angle in this passageway you are increasing available space to 25.4 inches.</li> <li>Ensure that persons waiting to go into the cavebus/waiting for friends in the cavebus are a safe distance from the bus at all times to avoid crowding if an evacuation has to take place.</li> </ul>	Low	

Contraband	Participants, Instructors, Maintenance Staff.  (Low risk)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instructor to brief participants not to take the following inside the cave: Mobile phones, batteries, food, drinks, lighters matches or anything sharp.</li> <li>• Instructors familiar with layout, comfortable about being in confined space and have undergone site specific training.</li> <li>• Instructors to remove anyone from the cave system who breaks contraband rules.</li> <li>• Instructors reserve the right not to allow any person back on the activity.</li> </ul>	Low	
Head injuries	Participants, Instructors, Maintenance Staff.  (Low risk, when wearing helmets)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High level of probability of a head strike inside the cave or exiting through an emergency exit. All participants are to wear helmets to minimise the effect of any bumps.</li> <li>• Instructor or competent adult to ensure that helmets are fitted correctly.</li> </ul>	Low	
Heat / temperature	Participants, Instructors, Maintenance Staff.  (Low risk)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instructors to be aware of the temperature in the cavebus and be prepared to stop the activity if the temperature gets too warm.</li> <li>• Cages fitted in top areas of all cavebuses to allow cool air to enter the system.</li> <li>• Open bus fire exit to allow cool air in. On coach versions ensure the safety chains or panels are in place across fire doors. Open emergency doors labelled "Emergency door and vent" when in use to cool the cave down.</li> <li>• Open all emergency doors when the cave is not in use to allow air into the system and allow the system to cool down.</li> <li>• <b>Do not leave doors marked "Emergency exit only" open when participants are in the cave</b></li> </ul>	Low	.

