


INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITY RISK ASSESSMENT - TRAINING		Degree of Risk		Risk Rating Matrix						
Society Name:	Leeds University Union Caving Society	Likelihood		Severity						
Category:	Gryphon Outdoors	5	Inevitable	Likelihood		1	2	3	4	5
Author(s):	Tara Delaney	4	Highly Likely		1	1	2	3	4	5
Author(s) signature and date:	T.D 25/07/25	3	Probable		2	2	4	6	8	10
Persons Responsible:	Club and society committees and leaders	2	Unlikely		3	3	6	9	12	15
Staff Sign Off:	[Signature] [Date]	1	Remote possibility		4	4	8	12	16	20
Staff Additional Check:	[Signature] [Date]	Severity								
Locations:	The Edge Climbing Wall	5	Very high - multiple deaths							
Details of Activity:	We will be conducting basic SRT training using ropes provided both by the club's equipment store and The Edge Climbing Wall. This will include ascending and descending ropes, changing from one rope to the other and safely learning how to use the equipment in a controlled environment as practice for caves.	4	Highly - death, serious injury, permanent disability							
		3	Moderate - Off Uni/work for at least 5 days							
		2	Slight - First aid treatment							
		1	Nil - Very minor							
People who may be affected:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Society members and participants (LUUCaS and ULSA)			Risk rating score		Action				
				1 - 4		Broadly acceptable - no action required				
				5 - 9		Moderate - Reduce risks if reasonably practicable				
				10 - 15		High risk - Priority action to be undertaken				
				16 - 25		Unacceptable - Action must be taken immediately				



- Members of the public
- Staff at The Edge

<i>Identify Hazards</i>		<i>Estimate the risk</i>			<i>Evaluate the risk</i>				<i>Evaluate residual risk</i>
Hazard	How may harm result?	Li ke lih ood	S e v er ity	Ra ti ng	Risk control measures	Li ke lih ood	Se ve rit y	Ra tin g	Further action required? Only fill out if additional control measures are needed to be implemented or reviewed Include timescales and who is responsible for implementation
Individual falling from height	All individuals taking part in caving and SRT training Members of ULSA Members of LUUCaS Falling while climbing on the wall and/or the platform may result in broken/fractured bones, or being knocked unconscious.	2	4	8	<u>Wall</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only Trainers requiring access to the platform/ needing a better view for teaching will use the climbing wall. • Climbing on the wall without protection will not exceed the height specified in the Edge Climbing Wall Induction except for access to the platform. • Trainers will ensure that all individuals in their vicinity are aware of their intentions to climb and all personnel will ensure they are not underneath the climbing Trainer. • All individuals that are not training/being trained will wait in the area at the entrance of the wall. Only individuals training/being trained will use the matting area. <u>Platform</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Trainer requiring access to the platform, 'Rigging Trainer', will use the easiest route up and down the climbing wall. • When climbing the wall without 	1	3	3	

					protection the 'Rigging Trainer' will ensure individuals in their vicinity are aware of their intentions and all personnel will ensure they are not underneath the climbing Trainer, especially as this height is greater than the height specified by the Edge facility for climbing without protection.				
Individuals falling from height onto others below	<p>All individuals taking part in caving and SRT training</p> <p>Members of ULSA</p> <p>Members of LUUCaS</p> <p>Falling onto others while climbing on the wall and/or the platform, or ropes due to incorrect use of equipment may result in a major injury including internal bleeding, broken/ fractured bones and/or concussion.</p>	2	4	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where climbing (by Trainers only) is necessary, the Trainer in question will communicate their intention to other Trainers. • All Trainers will ensure no individuals will be in the vicinity of the Trainer climbing. Trainees will be under constant supervision from the Trainers. • All individuals must be aware of their surroundings at all times, which includes above as well as around themselves. Communication between all individuals will ensure this. • Climbing on the wall without protection will not exceed the height specified in the Edge Climbing Wall Induction except for access to the platform. • When not being trained, trainees will be required to wait in the 'waiting area' at the entrance of the climbing wall. • Training will take place through a step by step process and Trainees will not progress to the next stage, including gaining height/ more complicated SRT, until they are ready to do so. Development of skills will be determined by the designated Trainers. 	1	3	3	
Failure of ULSA/ LUUCaS equipment	All individuals taking part in caving and SRT	2	3	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipment will be checked on a regular basis to ensure all ropes, harnesses, rigging and SRT equipment are safe to 	1	3	3	

	<p>training Members of ULSA Members of LUUCaS</p> <p>May result in broken/ fractured bones, being knocked unconscious from falling from height and/or falling onto individuals below causing further injury.</p>				<p>use. This will be carried out using the by the Tackle Officer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trainers will be responsible for the safety of their own personal equipment. • Ensuring Trainers are capable of checking their equipment will be included as part of the assessment for ensuring individuals are competent to be Trainers. • Part of the training that is delivered to Trainees includes maintenance and self-checking of equipment. 				
Equipment falling/ being dropped from height	<p>All individuals taking part in caving and SRT training Members of ULSA Members of LUUCaS</p> <p>May result in skin injuries, bruises, and knocked unconscious from metal equipment, in particular descenders, being dropped from height and landing on personnel below.</p>	2	3	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No individuals, at any time, are to walk or stand underneath anybody who is on a rope, a ladder, on the wall, the ledge, or in any other way above the ground. • When not being trained, trainees will be required to wait in the 'waiting area' at the entrance of the climbing wall. • Any non-personal equipment ie: ropes or ladders being moved to/from the platform level will be hauled/lowered using ropes. • Trainers will ensure all personal equipment is attached securely to the Trainee's harness prior to ascending the rope. Descenders will be attached to the central mallion to prevent moving the descender from the gear loop whilst on the rope. • On occasions where bundles of rope have to be dropped from the platform due to specialised rigging or derigging, the Trainer will call out 'below' as a warning and ensure that no one is standing in danger of the falling equipment. 	1	3	3	
Trapping fingers, hair and/or clothing in	All individuals taking part in	2	2	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trainers will ensure all Trainees have their hair tied back, no loose clothing is 	1	2	2	

equipment	<p>caving and SRT training Members of ULSA Members of LUUCaS</p> <p>May cause minor injury such as cuts and pain, and inability to descend the ropes due to injury to the hands.</p>				<p>being worn and do not progress onto more technical SRT practices until ready to do so (in accordance with the Training Guide).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club scissors (or rope cutter if applicable) will be available at all training sessions and will be held by the Training Officer. • A first aid kit and a first aider (one of the Trainers) will be available at every training session. 				
Fire alarm sounds whilst Trainees are attached on the rope	<p>All individuals taking part in caving and SRT training Members of ULSA Members of LUUCaS</p> <p>May cause Trainees to panic, and in a worst-case scenario be unable to descend from the rope quickly and safely resulting in them being trapped in the burning building, having the potential for a fatality/ies.</p>	1	5	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All those deemed as Trainers will undergo an 'appropriate Trainer Induction' which includes a fast, only-in-emergency procedure for rescuing Trainees from ropes should the fire alarm sound. This will involve two scenarios: If the Trainee is near to the floor, then the Trainer will cut the rope that the Trainee is attached to. If the Trainee is much higher up the rope then the Trainer will prussic up the rope nearest to the Trainee, they will change over to their descender, then attach the Trainee to the Trainers' harness using their cows tails and then cut the rope that the trainee is on. The Trainer will then descend safely to the floor with the Trainee attached to them. • As a result, Trainers will be required to wear their SRT kits during each session and the club rope cutter will be available at all times and will be held by the Training Officer. 	1	3	3	
Slips, trips and falls (not from height)	<p>All individuals taking part in caving and SRT training Members of</p>	2	2	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All equipment not in use and personal belongings will be left in the waiting area at the entrance to the climbing wall. These will be piled away from all walking areas. 	1	2	2	

	<p>ULSA Members of LUUCaS</p> <p>May cause minor injury resulting from tripping over equipment, ropes and/or personal belongings left on the floor.</p>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excess rope will be neatly piled on the floor. • General good housekeeping is to be kept to prevent these minor injuries. 				
Fatigue/ exhaustion	<p>All individuals taking part in caving and SRT training</p> <p>Members of ULSA</p> <p>Members of LUUCaS</p> <p>Exhaustion could lead to Trainees being unable to descend safely from rope. This could lead to sit harness syndrome, or falls from height should they attempt to continue unaided.</p>	2	2	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trainers are to ensure Trainees are capable of carrying out the training exercises in relation to their fitness levels. • Trainees are to be supervised at all times. Trainers will communicate with their Trainee to ensure they are confident and fit to continue. • Trainees will not progress to more complicated SRT until deemed ready to do so by Trainers. • Should Trainees be unable to descend from the rope, then a mid-rope rescue, or rescue as detailed within the Fire Safety procedure above will be carried out. • Trainers will be required to wear SRT kits so they are able to take emergency rescue action as soon as possible and the club knife will be available at all times and will be held by the Training Officer. 	1	2	2	
Risk of illness	<p>Club and Society Members</p> <p>Students</p> <p>Staff</p> <p>Visitors</p> <p>Contractors</p> <p>Vulnerable Groups, elderly, pregnant individuals,</p>	2	2	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practise good hygiene prior and post training by using the various sinks around The Edge to wash hands. 	1	1	1	

	those with underlying health conditions Anyone else who comes into contact with other from a Club or Society may be infected by common colds or viruses								
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Document Information

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Foreword

This Risk Assessment has been developed for the activities undertaken by members of the University of Leeds Speleological Association (ULSA) and the Leeds University Union Caving Society (LUUCaS) during the caving and Single Rope Technique (SRT) training sessions held at The Edge sports centre climbing wall.

It should be noted that LUUCaS members are also ULSA members under the ULSA Constitution and therefore, from this point forward, the pre-fix "ULSA" will be used to identify all members of ULSA and LUUCaS.

Document Development and Distribution

Version	Authors	Distribution	Date	Notes
V1_2006	Sam Allshorn	Leeds University Union ULSA Virtual Library	2006	N/A
V2_2014	Matthew Day Holly Bradley	Leeds University Union EDGE Sports Centre ULSA Virtual Library	September 2014	N/A
V3_2019	Michael Brigham	Leeds University Union	22/01/19	Checked over and reformatted

V4_2019	Alice Smith	Leeds University Union EDGE Sports Centre	September 2019	
V5_2021	Larisa Onoufriadi	Leeds University Union EDGE Sports Centre	September 2021	The format was changed and the risk assessment score rating according to Leeds University template (issue July 2021) and guidance, and the feedback provided on the general risk assessment (v4_2019) by the external consultant Dave Brown (March 2021).
V6_2024	Aidan Keegan	Leeds University Union EDGE Sports Centre	June 2024/ September 2024	The format requirements were changed for the risk assessment. Removed information regarding a Coronavirus and replaced terminology with general illness such as colds.
V7_2025	Tara Delaney	Leeds University Union EDGE Sports Centre	July 2025	Removed Risk Rating and Classification section as we currently use the system formulated by the LUU at the top of the document. Retitled 'Introduction' section to 'Summary'.

Summary

The University of Leeds Speleological Association (ULSA), of which members of the Leeds University Union Caving Society (LUUCaS) are also members, provides training to all members to enable them to cave safely underground. This includes the delivery of technical caving techniques to include ladders and rope work, as well as providing an understanding of basic underground safety such as preventing hypothermia.

This risk assessment identifies and assesses the risks that could occur whilst undertaking these training sessions and includes measures and precautions that will be implemented to deliver the training in the safest way possible.

Currently these sessions are held in The Edge climbing wall facility using LUUCaS and ULSA equipment. It should be noted that this risk assessment is solely for the identification and mitigation of potential risks associated with these activities undertaken during these training sessions. This does not provide any form of instruction of how to carry out these activities. This risk assessment will be used to ensure all training sessions are carried out in a safe manner. Procedures for implementing safe practices for training at the EDGE climbing wall are provided in the EDGE Climbing Wall Induction.

For the purposes of this risk assessment the word 'Trainer' has been used to describe anyone teaching or assisting with teaching a specific speleological technique, who is competent in that technique. The word 'Trainee' has been used to describe those learning and practising the techniques. Where 'Personnel' has been used, this refers to all parties using the wall.

Trainers will ensure the safety of the Trainees during the training sessions associated with the techniques and practices discussed. However, all individuals are responsible for their own safety and will be expected to conduct all activities within the guidelines of this Risk Assessment and the Inductions. A level of common sense is expected of all participants and all individuals involved must deliver a duty of care to each other.

A list of all those ULSA members deemed competent to provide supervision and support during training sessions will be provided to The Edge sports centre and Leeds University Union by the LUUCaS committee. It is necessary that these people are able to access the facility during designated training sessions to ensure the safety of those participating in the session. These training sessions take place at The Edge climbing wall on Tuesdays 7 to 9 PM and Fridays 8 to 10 PM.

Conclusions

All best efforts have been made to ensure that this risk assessment is comprehensive and accurate. It demonstrates that all risks associated with the teaching of caving and SRT techniques at The Edge training wall are acceptable. This is achieved through the implementation of appropriate precautions and safety measures.

Recommendations

This risk assessment, as well as those documents listed above are made available to all LUUCaS and ULSA members via the ULSA virtual library and/or the LUUCaS Engage page, and all members should read and be aware of their contents. The risk assessment and all other documentation must be reviewed and updated on an annual basis, as a minimum.

Document review and approval

Document approved for publication by the 2025/2026 LUUCaS Committee:

President; Arthur Watkinson

Signature; AWatkinson

Secretary; Tara Delaney

Signature; TDelaney

Treasurer; George Crawford

Signature; GCrawford