

Risk Assessment: Adventure Hike at Entwistle Reservoir

Date: Thursday, 8th August

Time: 10:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Location: Entwistle Reservoir, Bolton, Greater Manchester

Event Overview:

An 8.4-km circular hike at Entwistle Reservoir, involving 3 adults and 6 children aged 5-14. The hike is considered moderately challenging with some uneven and uphill sections.

Hazards and Risk Control Measures

1. Participant Safety

- **Risk:** Participants (children and adults) could get lost, injured, or become unwell.
- **Control Measures:**
 - Adult to child ratio is 1:3.
 - All participants must stay with the group.
 - Headcounts at regular intervals.
 - Ensure all children understand not to wander off.

2. Slips, Trips, and Falls

- **Risk:** Uneven and uphill sections that may be slippery, especially in wet conditions.
- **Control Measures:**
 - All participants must wear suitable footwear with good grip.
 - Brief participants on the importance of walking carefully on uneven terrain.
 - Cancel the hike if the weather is very wet or windy.

3. Weather Conditions

- **Risk:** Adverse weather conditions could lead to hypothermia or heat exhaustion.
- **Control Measures:**
 - Monitor weather forecasts leading up to the hike.
 - Ensure all participants bring and wear appropriate waterproof and weather-appropriate clothing.
 - Cancel the hike in very wet or windy conditions.

4. Medical Emergencies

- **Risk:** Participants could suffer from injuries or sudden illnesses.
- **Control Measures:**
 - Pediatric first aid trained leader present.
 - First aid kit carried at all times.
 - Emergency contact details carried by the leader.
 - Knowledge of the nearest hospital.

5. Dehydration and Fatigue

- **Risk:** Participants may become dehydrated or fatigued.
- **Control Measures:**

- Ensure all participants bring enough water and snacks.
- Plan regular rest stops.
- Monitor participants for signs of dehydration and fatigue.

6. Transportation

- **Risk:** Potential issues with transport arrangements.
- **Control Measures:**
 - Leader driving 3 children; ensure seat belts are worn.
 - Confirm all other children will be transported by their parents.
 - Verify parents' contact information and confirm drop-off/pick-up times.

7. Communication

- **Risk:** Lack of communication in case of an emergency.
- **Control Measures:**
 - All mobile phones fully charged and carried by adults.
 - Establish a communication plan in case of an emergency.
 - Inform all participants of emergency procedures before the hike begins.

8. Parental Permissions and Waivers

- **Risk:** Lack of parental permission or understanding of risks.
- **Control Measures:**
 - Provide parents with full details of the hike, including risks and safety measures.

Emergency Procedures

1. **Incident Response:**
 - Administer first aid as required.
 - Contact emergency services if needed.
 - Notify parents/guardians of any incidents involving their children.
2. **Evacuation Plan:**
 - Identify the quickest route to the nearest safe location.
 - Evacuate the group calmly and quickly in case of severe weather or other emergencies.
3. **Nearest Hospital:**
 - Carry details and directions to the nearest hospital.

Checklist for Participants

- Suitable footwear with good grip
- Waterproof and weather-appropriate clothing
- Water and snacks
- Fully charged mobile phone (for adults)

By following these risk control measures and procedures, we aim to ensure a safe and enjoyable hike for all participants.