Adventure Activity Standards (AAS)
Update Number 23
November 2005

Introduction
Welcome to the 23rd Adventure Activity Standards Victorian update.

Short and sweet; This update is short but essential. Covering the ongoing development of the snow AAS's, Developments relating to the safety of abseiling and the Coroner's recommendations following a fatality during an activity conducted by a **not for profit adventure activity provider.**

REMINDER of the 2005 Outdoor Victoria Conference with the new format to ensure relevance.

Also remember that you can access all previous updates and/or leave your suggestions and issues via the AAS section of the ORC website (www.orc.org.au).

This report covers;
- **AAS for Non Resort snow activities**
- **Abseiling Information**
- **Coroners Recommendations**
- **Relevant website links**
- **Frequently Asked Questions**
- **Additional information**
  - **Outdoor Victoria Conference 2005 ……REMINDER……..**
  - **Child safe**

Please pass this report on to all members, staff, committee members or individuals who you believe will have an interest in the continued development of the Victorian AAS.

News at a flash

AAS for Non Resort based Snow Activities
The AAS for non resort based snow activities will be posted on the review drafts section of the ORC website this week.

The development of all snow AAS was postponed in 2005 for various reasons. For this AAS the main reason for postponing development was to allow the working group refer to the completed Bushwalking AAS which would have clear relevance.

The document has already been circulated to the initial working group members and some associated contacts. Some topics referred to in comments are on page two of the draft (Draft 3.3) that is posted online. The process from here is as follows.

Step Two; 10th November – 5th January 2005
Public consultation
The revised draft will be posted to the review AAS section of the ORC website and a project update will be circulated by the ORC. Again, we invite you to forward that update to all individuals who are involved in the leadership of group snow activities. The draft will remain online until December 5th and comments will be welcomed by individuals and organisations via tracked changes and via the submit feedback facility on the review section of the website.

Step Three; 5th January – 19th January 2005
Review period
The ORC will collate feedback and revise the AAS with the assistance and direction of the AAS working group.

Step Four; 19th January – 20th February 2006
Legal review, committee agreement and publication
Throughout this period, the ORC will liaise with working group members, the AAS Solicitor, the ORC committee of management and AAS steering committee with the view to post the completed AAS on January 20th 2006.

Abseiling Information
The ORC Inc has received information relating to the safety of rear attachment abseiling. The organisation providing the information is called Vertical Services Pty Ltd and a thorough CD relating to the topic has been forwarded at the request

of the ORC.

Any changes to the AAS must be based upon Victorian feedback, considered by the working group and, unless urgent, changes will occur at the review by the Technical Review Committee.

For more information and/or a copy of the CD please email info@orc.org.au

Coroner's recommendations

The ORC Inc. has received a copy of a CORONERS REGULATIONS 1996; Form 1, Record of investigation into death.

This fatality occurred on 11th April 2001 and was the result of a fall from a giant swing activity. Of significant importance in the process of developing recommendations are the following points;
1. The organisation conducting the activity is an incorporated, ***not for profit*** adventure activity organisation.
2. The AAS were not in existence at the time of the incident but the lack of relevant industry standards was significant in the development of the coroner's recommendations.
3. That the organisation was not an accredited activity provider and that statutory accreditation was also a significant consideration in the development of recommendations.
4. That the recommendations which follow directly apply to regulation via the Victorian WorkCover Authority. Unlike the voluntary nature of industry developed schemes such as AAS and Accreditation.

Recommendations are as follows;

RECOMMENDATION 1
That the Governor in Council amend regulation 106(3) of the Occupational Health and Safety (Plant) Regulations 1995 to read:
"(3) Sub-regulations (1)(a) and (1)(b) do not include-
(a) plant which relies exclusively on manual power for its operation; or
(b) plant which is designed to be primarily supported by hand unless the plant is an amusement structure or device."

Further, under sections 7 and 12 of the current OH&S Act, the jurisdiction of the Victorian WorkCover Authority to issue and enforce the provisions of the Act has been extended to enable development of guidelines that may apply to operators of not-for-profit adventure activities like Delhuntie Park. The Victorian WorkCover Authority also has authority under the current OH&S to establish administer, examine, review and make recommendations concerning existing or proposed registration or licensing schemes.

However, the effectiveness of this extra jurisdiction in preventing deaths like that of Dale Measey will require routine surveillance by and relevant awareness and training of WorkCover Inspectors who monitor workplaces, investigate incidents and prepare briefs of evidence for prosecution.

Therefore, I recommend:

RECOMMENDATION 2
That the Victorian WorkCover Authority establish a mandatory accreditation, registration and/or licensing and surveillance scheme for adventure activities provided by not-for-profit organisations for use by the public.

In particular, I recommend:

RECOMMENDATION 3
That the Victorian WorkCover Authority review the training and awareness of their inspectors in relation to 'giant swing' structures with a view to identifying and prohibiting unsafe plant and operations before and after an incident occurs.

RECOMMENDATION 4
That the Victorian WorkCover Authority establish guidelines and routine surveillance procedures for 'giant swing' type adventure activities provided by not-for-profit organisations for use by the public which prohibit their use in an upside position and
require fail-safe independent duplication or back-up of all crucial linkages between the rider and the swing.

We believe that details are of a personal nature so we have not attached the document but a copy can be received by emailing a request to info@orc.org.au.

Relevant website links

Please continue to forward any website links that you believe are relevant to the Adventure Activity Standards project

(other standards, resources etc) and we will endeavour to add them to the additional resources section of the site.

Frequently Asked Questions

ONLINE NOW!!!! Answers from the horse's mouth. http://www.orc.org.au/aas/index.htm

Additional Information

The Outdoor Victoria Conference

The outdoor Victoria Conference is being held at the Geelong Conference centre on the ***11th & 12th November***. **[THIS WEEKEND]**

Keynotes and Plenary sessions will be conducted to bring all delegates up to date with current Government, Industry, community and legal developments (***including the Victorian Workcover Authority***).

Workshops are being organised by The Australian Camps Association, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme and The Outdoor recreation Centre.

Commercial Activity Providers should pay particular notice to sessions regarding representation, licences, access, insurance, leaders registration, standards and accreditation. This conference will enable decisions to be made as sessions will be attended by key staff of the ORC Inc. ACA, Tourism Alliance and the VOEA, so have your say, REGISTER NOW!

There are only 9 seats remaining for the dinner on Friday night so if you are quick you will be able to join us as we enjoy great food, drink, chat and the uniquely informative humour of our special guest speaker Mr Adam Spencer.

For more information see the attached flyer or see details on www.orc.org.au

Child safe initiative

ChildSafe is a Risk Management system designed to keep children safe. It has been created for organisations working with children and young people, offering them a range of materials that can greatly assist in providing safe programs.

ChildSafe addresses issues of Child Protection, Risk Management, physical safety in programs, Emergency Response and a host of other topics. Materials are targetted at different levels: volunteers or staff working directly with children, team leaders organising programs or events, administrators overseeing programs and Risk Management Officers.

A set of ChildSafe materials is available for organisations to evaluate – see www.childsafe.org.au for more details.

Contact details

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