



Safety Precaution in Scout Pioneering

This Circular substitutes Activity Guideline No. 02/2019 issued on 15 December 2019.

Scout Pioneering is one of the most popular scouting activities, it is anticipated that fatal accidents may occur from time to time such as falls, drowning, etc. In order to maintain safety at an optimum level, it is important that one has to be aware of the safety precautions and understands the potential risks that may occur during the activity. To reduce hazards and avoid accident, guidelines on safety precaution in Scout pioneering are listed in the following paragraphs for all Scout leaders and youth members to note and comply with:

A. Safety precautions guidelines:

1. Responsible leaders are required to hold the Leader pioneering certificate, i.e. certificates from pioneering training courses of the Scout Skill Courses, Certificate of Pioneering Refresher Workshop or the Scout Accreditation Scheme (levels 1 to 3), or pioneering proficiency levels 1 to 3 of the Scout Accreditation Scheme; all these certificates must be dated after 15 June 2014, otherwise an additional certificate from the Pioneering Safety Workshop is also required;
2. In situations that require movement of body up and down at a level two metres or more, the participant must be protected by a belayer using the “Top Rope Belay Technique”;
3. All activities at a height two metres or more, participants must be protected by a safety belt if there is no working platforms and guard-rails, the free end of the safety belt should be fastened to a fixed anchor. If this is not possible, the free end of the safety belt can be fastened to the pioneering project at a firm place;
4. Activities at a height less than two metres, participants can also be protected by a safety belt same as above, or by spotters as a kind of free hand protection;
5. Participants should wear safety helmet when doing pioneering at high place or when there is someone working above;
6. There should be at least one person trained in a 30-hour first aid with pass (recognized by the Commissioner for Labour) to stay within the pioneering activity;
7. The leader to participant ratio should not be less than 1:8 in all pioneering activities / workshops / training courses with an exception to non-risk activities and lectures;
8. Scout pioneering in water should follow the instructions given by the local scout activity centre, all participants are required to pass a water test and wear life jackets throughout the activity; and
9. All pioneering activities taking places in the scout activity centres including but not limited to Tai Tam Scout Centre, Gilwell Campsite, Pak Sha Wan T.W.C. Sea Activity Centre, Tung Tsz Scout Centre, and those scout activity centres where pioneering equipment and facilities are available for members to borrow must comply with the above guidelines.

B. Minor pioneering project

Minor pioneering projects (tabled below) that are usually built during Group gathering and camping are not restricted by the above guidelines, but leaders should still ensure members to play safely.

Category	Projects ^{note}
Tower and Lifting	Ten-minute Tower, Derrick.
Bridge and Crossing	Commando Bridge, Patrol Swing Bridge (vertical spar is fixed with guylines), Swamp.
Raft (build on land only)	Bamboo and Spar Raft, Catamaran, Sausage Raft, Coracle, Oil Drum Raft, Outrigger Raft, Tarpaulin Raft.
Fun and Game / Camp Gadgets	Bouncing Bazooka, Flaming Bolt Launcher, Guided Missile Launcher, Scout Staff Ballista, Skylite, Wigan Flagstaff, Skylon Weathercock, Trestle, Land Yacht, Secret Weapon, Counter-Balance Gate, Camp Gadgets: shoes rack, notice board, patrol camp gate, camp table, etc.

Note: References of the named projects can be made to the latest publications on Scout Pioneering of the Association.



Jason NG
Deputy Chief Commissioner
(Programme & Training)