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MICHELLE HOWDLE
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Risk Assessment for Alpha Training

General Information

- **Location:** 12-acre woodland site
- **Activities:** Horse Care and Animal Care training for learners aged 13-25
- **Facilities:**
 - Woodland lodge classroom
 - Office
 - Kitchen
 - Toilet
 - Practical animal room
 - 7 stables
 - Tack room
 - Feed room
 - Various outdoor animal enclosures
 - Chicken sheds



Hazard	Potential Risks	Who is at Risk	Risk Level	Control Measures	Residual Risk Level
Slips, Trips, and Falls	Injuries from slipping on wet surfaces or tripping over obstacles	Learners, Staff, Visitors	Medium	- Regular maintenance of pathways - Clear signage for wet floors - Proper lighting in all areas	Low
Animal Handling	Bites, kicks, scratches, trampling	Learners, Staff	High	- Comprehensive training on animal handling - Supervision by experienced staff - Use of PPE (gloves, helmets)	Medium
Infectious Diseases	Zoonotic diseases from animals	Learners, Staff	High	- Regular veterinary checks for animals - Hygiene protocols (handwashing stations) - Vaccinations	Medium
Use of Tools and Equipment	Cuts, bruises, or other injuries from using tools and equipment	Learners, Staff	Medium	- Training on proper use of tools - Regular maintenance of equipment - Use of protective gear (gloves, goggles)	Low
Fire Hazard	Burns, smoke inhalation, property damage	Everyone on site	High	- Fire extinguishers and blankets available - Regular fire drills - Clear emergency exits and evacuation routes	Medium
Chemical Handling	Exposure to cleaning agents, medications	Learners, Staff	Medium	- Proper storage and labeling of chemicals - Training in safe handling procedures - Use of PPE	Low
Allergic Reactions	Allergic reactions to animals or substances	Learners, Staff	Medium	- Medical information collected from participants - First-aid kits available - Allergy information posted	Low
Weather Conditions	Heatstroke, hypothermia, slips due to rain	Learners, Staff, Visitors	Medium	- Appropriate clothing and footwear guidelines - Shelters available - Weather monitoring	Low
Food Preparation	Food poisoning, cross-contamination	Learners, Staff (involved in food prep)	Medium	- Hygiene training for kitchen staff - Regular inspections - Proper food storage protocols	Low
Vehicle Movement	Accidents with moving vehicles on-site	Learners, Staff, Visitors	Medium	- Designated vehicle paths - Speed limits enforced - Supervision during loading/unloading	Low
Woodland Hazards	Falling branches, uneven ground, wildlife encounters	Learners, Staff, Visitors	Medium	- Regular tree inspections - Marked pathways - Wildlife awareness training	Low
Electrical Hazards	Electric shock, equipment failure	Learners, Staff	Medium	- Regular electrical safety checks - PAT testing of equipment - Use of circuit breakers	Low



Detailed Risk Controls

1. Slips, Trips, and Falls

- **Risk Level:** Medium
- **Control Measures:**
 - Regular inspection and maintenance of paths and walkways to clear debris and repair any uneven surfaces.
 - Use of slip-resistant mats in areas prone to water accumulation, such as entrances and exits.
 - Installation of adequate lighting in all facilities and along pathways.
 - Clear signage indicating wet or slippery surfaces and potential tripping hazards.

2. Animal Handling

- **Risk Level:** High
- **Control Measures:**
 - Comprehensive training for all learners and staff on proper techniques for handling different animals.
 - Supervision by experienced staff during all animal handling sessions.
 - Provision of personal protective equipment (PPE), including gloves, helmets, and boots.
 - Establishing clear guidelines and safety protocols for interacting with animals.

3. Infectious Diseases

- **Risk Level:** High
- **Control Measures:**
 - Routine health checks and vaccinations for all animals.
 - Implementation of strict hygiene protocols, including handwashing stations strategically located around the facility.
 - Immediate isolation of any animal showing signs of illness.
 - Provision of information on zoonotic diseases to learners and staff.

4. Use of Tools and Equipment

- **Risk Level:** Medium



- **Control Measures:**

- Detailed training on the correct and safe use of all tools and equipment, including manual and power tools.
- Regular maintenance and inspection of equipment to ensure they are in good working condition.
- Availability of PPE such as gloves and goggles when handling tools.
- Secure storage of all equipment to prevent unauthorised access.

5. Fire Hazard

- **Risk Level:** High

- **Control Measures:**

- Installation and maintenance of fire extinguishers, fire blankets, and smoke detectors in key areas.
- Conducting regular fire drills and emergency evacuation procedures for all staff and learners.
- Ensuring all emergency exits are clearly marked and unobstructed at all times.
- Training staff in the use of firefighting equipment and first-response actions.

6. Chemical Handling

- **Risk Level:** Medium

- **Control Measures:**

- Secure storage of all chemicals in clearly labeled containers within designated storage areas.
- Training for staff and learners on safe handling practices and emergency response procedures.
- Provision of appropriate PPE, such as gloves and masks, when dealing with chemicals.
- Regular audits of chemical inventories to ensure compliance with safety standards.

7. Allergic Reactions

- **Risk Level:** Medium

- **Control Measures:**

- Collection of medical information and known allergies for all learners and staff before participation in activities.
- Availability of first-aid kits and trained first-aiders on-site to respond to allergic reactions.
- Posting of allergen information in common areas and provision of alternative materials or animals if necessary.
- Clear communication to staff regarding learners' specific allergies and potential triggers.



8. Weather Conditions

- **Risk Level:** Medium
- **Control Measures:**
 - Monitoring of weather forecasts and preparation for adverse conditions.
 - Provision of guidelines for appropriate clothing and footwear for different weather scenarios.
 - Availability of shelters and shaded areas for protection against extreme weather.
 - Scheduling outdoor activities during optimal weather conditions when possible.

9. Food Preparation

- **Risk Level:** Medium
- **Control Measures:**
 - Hygiene training for all staff involved in food preparation, including cross-contamination prevention techniques.
 - Regular inspections of kitchen facilities and food storage areas.
 - Proper storage of food items at appropriate temperatures to prevent spoilage.
 - Clear labelling of food items, including allergen information.

10. Vehicle Movement

- **Risk Level:** Medium
- **Control Measures:**
 - Designation of specific vehicle pathways separate from pedestrian areas.
 - Enforcement of strict speed limits throughout the facility.
 - Supervision and coordination during the loading and unloading of animals or supplies.
 - Clear signage for vehicle routes and pedestrian crossings.

11. Woodland Hazards

- **Risk Level:** Medium
- **Control Measures:**
 - Regular inspection and maintenance of woodland areas to identify and remove hazards such as fallen branches.
 - Marking of pathways and trails to ensure safe navigation through the woodland.



- Training for learners and staff on recognising and responding to wildlife encounters.
- Use of protective clothing and equipment when venturing into denser woodland areas.

12. Electrical Hazards

- **Risk Level:** Medium
- **Control Measures:**
 - Regular electrical safety inspections and PAT (Portable Appliance Testing) of all electrical equipment.
 - Installation of circuit breakers and surge protectors to prevent electrical overloads.
 - Training staff and learners on basic electrical safety and emergency procedures.
 - Immediate reporting and repair of any electrical faults or issues.

Risk Assessment Monitoring and Review

Ongoing Monitoring:

- **Daily Inspections:** Conduct daily walk-throughs of the premises to identify any immediate hazards or issues that may have arisen overnight or during previous activities.
- **Incident Reporting:** Implement an incident reporting system for staff and learners to report potential risks or near misses, which helps identify trends or areas needing improvement.

Regular Reviews:

- **Quarterly Review:** Conduct a thorough risk assessment review every quarter to ensure that all control measures are effective and up-to-date. This should involve input from staff and learners to capture a wide range of perspectives.
- **Annual Review:** An annual review involving a complete reassessment of all hazards and risks. This review should incorporate feedback from the quarterly reviews and include updated training and emergency procedures if necessary.
- **After Incidents:** Perform an immediate review of the risk assessment following any significant incident or accident to determine the cause and implement additional control measures to prevent recurrence.



Emergency Procedures

Fire Emergency:

- **Evacuation Routes:** Clearly marked and unobstructed evacuation routes from all buildings, including the lodge classroom, stables, and animal enclosures.
- **Assembly Points:** Designated assembly points located a safe distance from buildings, with clearly posted maps and instructions.
- **Fire Drills:** Conduct regular fire drills to ensure all learners and staff are familiar with evacuation procedures and assembly points.
- **Firefighting Equipment:** Regularly inspect and maintain fire extinguishers and blankets, and ensure all staff are trained in their use.

Animal-Related Emergencies:

- **Escape Protocols:** Procedures for securing loose animals and safely returning them to their enclosures without putting staff or learners at risk.
- **Animal Injury:** First aid procedures for injured animals, including contact information for on-call veterinarians and animal control specialists.
- **Zoonotic Disease Outbreak:** Immediate isolation and veterinary assessment of any animal showing symptoms of contagious diseases, and notification to local health authorities if necessary.

Medical Emergencies:

- **First Aid Kits:** Strategically placed and fully stocked first aid kits throughout the facility, including the lodge, stables, and outdoor areas.
- **Trained Personnel:** At least one trained first aider on-site at all times, with additional training in handling common injuries such as bites, stings, and falls.
- **Emergency Contacts:** A list of emergency contacts, including local hospitals, veterinarians, and animal control, clearly posted in all major buildings.

Weather Emergencies:

- **Shelter Protocols:** Designated indoor areas for shelter during severe weather events, with adequate space for learners, staff, and animals.
- **Weather Monitoring:** Continuous monitoring of weather conditions using reliable sources, with preemptive measures taken to secure loose items and animals.
- **Communication Systems:** Effective communication systems in place to inform all personnel of approaching weather threats and the necessary actions to take.



Appendix

1. Risk Matrix

Severity \ Likelihood	Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Very High
Negligible	Very Low	Low	Low	Medium	Medium
Minor	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	High
Moderate	Low	Medium	Medium	High	Very High
Major	Medium	Medium	High	High	Very High
Critical	Medium	High	High	Very High	Very High

2. PPE Guidelines

Activity	Required PPE
Animal Handling	Gloves, helmets, protective boots
Chemical Handling	Gloves, masks, goggles
Tool Use	Gloves, safety goggles, sturdy footwear
Riding/Training Horses	Helmets, protective vests, riding boots
Cleaning Stables	Gloves, masks, waterproof boots
Outdoor Maintenance	Sturdy footwear, gloves, protective eyewear