

Adventure Activity Standards (AAS) Update Number 31 February 2006



Introduction

This update for February 2006 addresses the following; As always, we are very keen to have your input and to hear your views on these matters as they impact you 'in the field'. This is best done via email to info@orc.org.au

In this report;

- AAS Website
- AAS technical committee established
- AAS technical committee minutes
- AAS review
- AAS Surf Kayaking update
- VWA adventure activity injury prevention project
- Australian Standards update

Additional information

- **Fire recovery (involving the not for profit groups)**
- **Rec House project update**

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 and the issues communicated in this update.

News at a flash

Unless stated otherwise, please direct any questions regarding this update to the ORC Executive Officer via (03) 9457 5432 or gordon@orc.org.au. Please leave a name and telephone number.

AAS Website

Please note that www.orc.org.au is now up to date. The team are working on several new developments including;

- AAS Technical Committee page
- Rec House Page

If you have any concerns or are seeking any documents that you believe may have been intended for publication on the site then please email gordon@orc.org.au.

AAS Technical committee and review.

The first meeting of the newly formed AAS technical committee (AAS TC) (as it is now named) was held at the ORC building in View bank on the 7th of December 2006. This meeting was very productive as the committee members;

- Discussed and worked towards a standard introduction to the AAS (to be posted to www.orc.org.au)
- Established a terms of reference for themselves (for consideration by the ORC committee of management) and (AAS steering committee). This included some important discussion relating to the ongoing role of the AAS Steering Committee.
- Discussed priorities (generic and specific) relating to the review of the AAS.
- Commenced the generic review of the structure, presentation and consistency of the AAS.

Key outcomes of this meeting included establishing a review process to be undertaken over a period of time (Jan – June 2007 is the preferred time frame), that all review developments will be communicated via these updates and/or a summary of meeting minutes posted online www.orc.org.au.

Archived drafts will also find a place on the website (*please note this will be from early 2007 as the ORC webmaster is on leave*).

Any comments for consideration (whole of AAS, a particular activity or even a single word) please email AASreview@orc.org.au.

AAS Surf Kayaking update – MSV investigation outcomes

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The ORC has been informed that we will be informed of the outcomes of this investigation in the near future. Some of the delay is due to the inclusion of these craft within the broad scope of a review of 'hire drive craft'.

We are now keen to set a date and establish a working group of organisations that undertake this activity to meet (hopefully) prior to the end of March.

If your organisation is interested in participating in this process alongside Surfing Victoria and Australian Canoeing then please email info@orc.org.au.

VWA adventure activity injury prevention project

How have the visits affected you?

If you have had a VWA visit as part of the injury prevention project then it may be beneficial for the industry if we know how it went. Several questions are important for the rest of the industry such as;

- Was the level of detail of these audits appropriate?
- Were the inspectors understanding of your procedures?
- Were the questions in the assessment tool appropriate?

Flying fox procedures

There is still a great deal of confusion regarding the appropriate procedures for operating a Flying Fox.

The Challenge Ropes Course AAS still contains the general areas that should be addressed in any risk assessment.

There is no law that states that a full body harness is any safer than a sit harness provided they are fitted and used appropriately and in accordance with your procedures. The competency of the operator should be measured against the National Training Package (as in the AAS) and most importantly, all documented procedures should be followed at all times.

This means all supervisors knowing what they are doing and paying attention!

If you remain confused, a great website to access is the Australian Camps Association Site where most of the documentation has been posted over the past year. The ACA are also in the process of developing a suitable guideline that should be available soon.

Additional information

Rec House – project update.

For all who are interested, the new Recreation House in Westerfolds Park remains on target for completion in early to mid February. This means that tenants are likely to move in towards the 19th of March with an official opening expected for late in April 2007.

These are exciting times for the Victorian outdoor recreation industry as this commitment by Sport and Recreation Victoria, Parks Victoria and the department for Victorian Communities provides a physical center for us all.

Every ORC member organisation will have access to the meeting and training rooms, storage facilities as well as access to broad band internet, printing and photocopying. More information on the development of this initiative, booking the meeting rooms and the opening will be circulated to members soon.

For more information regarding the Victorian AAS project visit our website or contact us;

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