

BOULDER & CAVE

Mobile Caving Experience

RISK ASSESSMENT & METHOD STATEMENT (RAMS)

Version 1.0 — Operational issue

Boulder & Cave is a trading name of Purple Frog Entertainment. This RAMS sets out the principal hazards, control measures, safe system of work and emergency arrangements for the Mobile Caving Experience. It must be read alongside the current Overarching Operating Standard, participant safety information, site-specific assessment and event/venue instructions.

1. Activity and operating parameters

Activity	Enclosed trailer-mounted artificial mobile cave with approximately 30 m of crawl-tunnel route, including low crawls, squeezes, tight passages and low-level/atmospheric lighting.
Participants	Minimum age 5 years; minimum height 1.1 m; subject to individual suitability.
Capacity	Approximately 8–10 participants within the system at one time, controlled by supervisors and safe flow.
Staffing	Two Boulder & Cave activity supervisors. Lone operation prohibited.
Ground	Suitable hard standing or level grass, subject to site assessment.
Planning dimensions	Approx. cave/trailer: 8.5 m long × 2.5 m wide × 2.7 m high. Standard safety zone: 1 m. Standard cave/gazebo planning footprint: approx. 9.5 m × 6.5 m.
Indoor use	Approx. 3 m clear height is ideal, but access openings and manoeuvring space must also be suitable.
Vehicle access	Good access and turning space for articulated van/trailer combination; allow up to approx. 15.5 m access length for planning.
Physical setup / de-rig	Approx. 40 minutes each under suitable conditions, plus time for positioning, inspection, barriers and briefing.
Weather	Suspend during lightning/electrical storms, torrential rain where unsafe/unsuitable, and sustained wind at or above 35 mph. Operator may suspend earlier or for any unsafe condition.

2. Risk assessment method

Risk rating uses Likelihood (L) × Severity (S), each scored 1–5. Residual risk is assessed after controls.

Score	Rating	Required response
1–4	Low	Maintain controls and monitor.
5–9	Medium	Controls and active monitoring required; reduce further where reasonably practicable.

10–14	High	Do not proceed until additional controls reduce risk and supervisor signs off.
15–25	Very High / Intolerable	Stop / do not proceed until risk is reduced.

3. Participant health and suitability requirements

Participation is conditional on the participant being fit and healthy enough for a physical crawling activity in an enclosed environment. The experience is not suitable for everyone. Participants (or a parent/guardian where appropriate) must consider their health and disclose relevant concerns before taking part.

- Participants must be physically capable of crawling, crouching, turning and moving through low and confined passages.
- The activity is not suitable for anyone suffering from severe claustrophobia or who does not feel able to tolerate an enclosed/confined environment.
- People with a heart condition or other underlying medical condition that could reasonably be aggravated by physical exertion or a confined environment should not participate unless they have appropriate medical advice that participation is suitable.
- People with a current injury, existing injury, recent surgery or condition that could be aggravated by crawling, crouching, twisting or physical exertion should not participate.
- A participant who feels unwell, faint, distressed, breathless beyond normal exertion, panicked or otherwise unable to continue must stop and alert a supervisor.
- Participants must not take part while affected by alcohol, recreational drugs or any substance that impairs safe participation.
- Where a participant or guardian is uncertain about suitability, they should not participate until appropriate advice has been obtained. Boulder & Cave staff do not provide medical diagnosis or medical clearance.

The supervising team retains the right to refuse, pause or end participation where there is a reasonable safety or suitability concern. Health screening is a safety control and must be applied respectfully and without unnecessary collection or disclosure of medical information.

4. Participant clothing and pre-entry controls

- Closed-toe footwear is required. Open-toe sandals, flip-flops, heels and other unsuitable open footwear are not permitted.
- Hair is secured where necessary; bags, long necklaces and other loose/snaggable items are removed.
- Required head protection and participant lighting are fitted/checked before entry where specified by the operating equipment and current inspection regime.
- Every participant receives a concise safety briefing covering safe movement, no forcing through restrictions, how to ask for help, and the right to stop/turn back.
- Supervisors control entry and maintain participant counts.

5. Hazard assessment and controls

Hazard	Who	Potential harm	Initial	Controls	Residual
Becoming stuck / restricted movement	Participants	Panic, strain, injury while negotiating squeezes or low	4×4=16	Pre-entry suitability check; clear briefing; no forcing through;	2×3=6

		passages		controlled flow; supervisor monitoring; participant may reverse/turn back; accessible release/extraction arrangements maintained; stop new entries during an extraction.	
Claustrophobia / panic / anxiety	Participants	Distress or panic in enclosed environment	4×3=12	Health/suitability warning before entry; severe claustrophobia excluded; participant may decline/stop; supervisors maintain communication and provide calm assisted exit; no participant pressured to continue.	2×2=4
Slips, trips, low-level impacts	Participants / staff	Minor to serious injury from floor, ramps, low ceilings or internal features	4×3=12	Pre-use inspection; non-slip/maintained surfaces; padding/protection maintained; suitable head protection where required; closed-toe footwear; controlled movement and briefing; defects remove affected area from service.	2×2=4
Participant medical event / underlying condition	Participants	Illness or injury aggravated by exertion, confined environment or pre-existing condition	3×4=12	Fit-and-healthy participation requirement; health/suitability information; heart/underlying conditions and existing/recent injuries screened by participant self-assessment; stop activity on symptoms;	1×3=3

				trained first-aid provision based on event needs assessment; emergency access/extraction plan; call emergency services where required.	
Fire / smoke	Participants / staff / public	Smoke inhalation, burns, entrapment	2×5=10	No smoking/vaping/ naked flames at activity; fire safety equipment and exits checked before use; emergency egress kept available; halt entry, evacuate, muster and call 999 if required; do not re-enter until safe.	1×4=4
Loss of lighting / electrical fault	Participants / staff	Disorientation, panic, trip/fall	3×3=9	Primary and emergency/participant lighting checked before operation; spare lighting available; stop entries on failure; supervisors assist controlled exit; defective system isolated until safe.	1×2=2
Hygiene / shared equipment	Participants / staff	Transmission via shared contact surfaces/equipment	3×2=6	Routine cleaning of shared participant equipment and high-contact surfaces; hand hygiene available; visibly contaminated equipment removed from use until cleaned; participant with significant infectious symptoms may be declined	1×2=2

				where necessary for safety.	
Manual handling / setup / de-rig	Staff	Musculoskeletal injury, crush/pinch injury	4×3=12	Two-person setup where required; trained crew; mechanical aids/stabilisers used as designed; safe lifting technique; gloves/suitable work footwear; no unauthorised public in setup zone.	2×2=4
Trailer instability / unsuitable ground	Participants / staff / public	Movement, tilt or structural instability	3×4=12	Site assessment; hard standing or level grass; trailer levelled/stabilised/chocked using designed equipment; safety zone maintained; inspect after material change in conditions; cease operation on instability concern.	1×3=3
Vehicle movement / access	Staff / public / venue users	Collision, trapping, property damage	4×4=16	Pre-plan access; allow adequate articulated vehicle/trailer length and turning area; avoid tight turns; banksman where required; segregate public during manoeuvring; low-speed movement; stop if route is unsuitable.	2×3=6
Public access / queue / ramp	Participants / public	Trips, crowding, unauthorised entry	4×3=12	1 m standard safety zone; supervised entrance/exit; barriers/queue management as appropriate; access surfaces	2×2=4

				checked; public kept clear of stabilisers, tow equipment and operational hazards.	
Children / safeguarding	Children / vulnerable participants	Separation, inappropriate unsupervised circumstances, unsafe behaviour	3×3=9	School/group responsible adult present; Boulder & Cave operates with two supervisors; controlled participant counts; venue/group safeguarding arrangements followed; no participant deliberately isolated without operational need; lost-child/event procedure agreed where applicable.	1×2=2
Adverse weather	Participants / staff / public	Instability, lightning exposure, unsafe access or operating conditions	3×4=12	Weather monitored. Suspend for lightning/electrical storms; suspend in torrential rain where unsafe/unsuitable; suspend at sustained wind ≥35 mph; operator may stop sooner due to gusts/site conditions or any unsafe circumstance; reassess before resuming.	1×3=3
Unauthorised access when unattended	Public / children	Injury from equipment or internal access	3×3=9	Secure/close cave when not supervised; prevent public access to operational equipment; isolate systems as	1×2=2

				appropriate; barriers/doors checked before staff leave.	
--	--	--	--	--	--

6. Method statement — pre-event planning

1. Confirm booking details, activity times, expected participant profile and venue contact.
2. Obtain sufficient site information to assess access, ground, operating footprint, indoor clearance where relevant, emergency access and public interface.
3. Confirm the articulated van/trailer can reach, turn, position and leave safely. Use the planning allowance of up to approximately 15.5 m where assessing access.
4. Confirm suitable hard standing or level grass and sufficient operational/safety space.
5. Review weather forecast and any venue-specific hazards. A site-specific assessment supplements this RAMS where circumstances require it.
6. Provide the venue/customer with current RAMS and relevant participant/safety information where required.

7. Method statement — arrival and setup

7. Arrive with sufficient time for safe positioning, approximately 40 minutes physical setup, and all additional inspections/briefings before public opening.
8. Control the vehicle manoeuvring area and use a banksman where visibility, public interface or site geometry requires one.
9. Position on suitable ground; level, stabilise and chock the trailer using the designed equipment.
10. Establish the standard safety zone and supervised entry/exit/queue area.
11. Inspect structure, internal route, padding/protective features, entry/exit, lighting, emergency arrangements, participant equipment, barriers and any other safety-critical component.
12. Brief both supervisors on event-specific arrangements, emergency access, venue contact and muster point.
13. Do not open until defects affecting safety are rectified or the affected element is removed from service.

8. Method statement — participant onboarding

14. Confirm age/height and provide the participant health and suitability information.
15. Participant/guardian confirms that the participant is fit and healthy enough for the activity and has no disclosed condition or injury that makes participation unsuitable.
16. Specifically highlight physical crawling/crouching, confined spaces, severe claustrophobia, heart/underlying conditions, existing or recent injuries and recent surgery as suitability considerations.
17. Check closed-toe footwear; secure hair and remove loose/snaggable items.
18. Fit/check required protective equipment and participant lighting where applicable.
19. Deliver the safety briefing: controlled movement, do not force through restrictions, follow staff directions, how to request assistance, and right to stop/turn back.
20. Entry supervisor controls flow and participant count; approximately 8–10 maximum in the system at one time subject to supervisor judgement.

9. Method statement — operation

21. Two supervisors remain in operational roles; no lone operation.
22. Maintain controlled entry and exit, participant counts and appropriate communication/monitoring.

23. Stop new entries immediately if a participant requires assistance or if an equipment, site, weather or medical concern arises.
24. Assist any participant who wishes to stop or turn back without pressure to continue.
25. Monitor weather and site conditions throughout. Suspend at sustained wind of 35 mph or above, during lightning/electrical storms, or in torrential rain where unsafe/unsuitable. Suspend earlier whenever operator judgement indicates unsafe conditions.
26. Reassess after any significant change before restarting.
27. Record incidents, near misses, defects or significant interventions in the appropriate operational record.

10. Method statement — shutdown and de-rig

28. Stop admissions and confirm all participants have exited.
29. Inspect and clean participant-contact equipment/surfaces as required.
30. Close/isolate equipment and prevent unauthorised public access.
31. De-rig only when the working area can be controlled safely; allow approximately 40 minutes under suitable conditions.
32. Complete pre-tow checks before moving the trailer.
33. Use controlled vehicle manoeuvring and a banksman where required.
34. Record defects and remove safety-critical defective equipment from service pending repair/reinspection.

11. Emergency procedures

Emergency	Immediate action
Participant stuck / unable to progress	Stop new entries. Establish calm communication. Instruct participant to stop forcing movement and, where safe, reverse/turn back. Supervisor assists using the designed access/release/extraction arrangement. Evacuate others if necessary. Provide first aid and record the incident.
Panic / claustrophobic distress	Stop or control entries. Reassure participant, maintain communication and assist them to the nearest safe exit/turn-back route. Move to a quiet safe area and provide first aid if required.
Medical event	Stop new entries. Reach and assist the participant using the safest available access/extraction route. Provide first aid within competence, call 999 where required and ensure emergency services can access the site. Preserve dignity and pass relevant information to responders.
Fire / smoke	Raise alarm, stop entry and evacuate participants by the safest available exit. Move to the agreed muster point, isolate equipment where safe to do so, call 999 if required and do not re-enter until declared safe.
Loss of lighting	Stop entries. Use emergency/spare lighting and supervisors to guide participants out. Isolate defective equipment and do not reopen until safe.
Trailer movement / structural concern	Cease operation immediately, evacuate, enlarge/secure the exclusion area as necessary and inspect. Do not resume until the cause is identified and the equipment/site is safe.
Lightning / wind / severe rain	Cease operation, prevent entry and move participants/staff to an appropriate safe location. Reassess conditions before reopening; operator discretion remains decisive.

12. First aid, competence and records

- First-aid provision must be suitable for the event and informed by the risk assessment and venue arrangements.
- Supervisors must be trained/competent for their assigned Boulder & Cave operating roles and briefed on this RAMS and equipment-specific emergency procedures.
- Safety-critical inspections are completed before use and after any event or condition that could affect safety.
- Incidents, near misses and safety-critical defects are recorded and reviewed.
- This RAMS is reviewed at least annually and sooner after an incident/near miss, material equipment or operating change, significant new hazard, or relevant legal/guidance change.

13. Site-specific dynamic assessment

This RAMS does not remove the need for competent on-site judgement. Before and during each event the lead operator must consider site-specific conditions including access, ground, crowd interface, weather, emergency access, venue restrictions and participant profile. If a hazard is not adequately controlled, the activity must not start or must be suspended until suitable controls are in place.

14. Approval and sign-off

Document reference	BC-RAMS-CAVE-001
Version	1.0
Effective date	9 September 2026
Approved by	Owner / authorised Purple Frog Entertainment representative
Next review	By 9 September 2027, or sooner on a review trigger

Event/site sign-off (where required):

Name	Role	Signature	Date