



Hazard	Risk	Likelihood	Consequences	Risk rating	Examples of Risk Controls	Who is responsible for risk control
Bush fire	Injury or death	Moderate (Midsummer - walk in bush or forest for example) Unlikely in winter or wet conditions	High	High	Walk leader to check with local land manager before starting a walk in a fire prone area during fire season • Carry a radio and mobile phone on extended walks during the fire season to check daily fire status • Overnight walkers to take food that doesn't require a stove • Research the walk area in terms of fire zone, emergency exit routes & safe places • Consider cancellation of the event • No day walks in forest areas on a total fire ban day.	Leader
				Low		Leader
						Walkers
						Leader
						Leader
Extreme cold	Frostbite Hypothermia Death	Likely in alpine areas and wet windy conditions with high wind chill factor	Critical	High	Clothing checklist for remote areas, mountain areas • Gear checklist for overnight walks • Leader must confirm that party members are carrying minimum clothing requirements (include day walks if cold conditions and off trail) • Club provides health / safety emergency-response training /education. Check forecast including during trip if possible Consider cancellation or alternative venue	Walkers
						Walkers
						Leaders
						Club
						Leader
Extreme heat	Extreme heat Dehydration, Heat Stroke death	Moderate in summer	Medium	Medium	Clothing checklist • Club provides health / safety emergency-response training /education	Club
				Critical		



					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gear checklist (all types of walk) includes water bottle • Leader (remote and extended walks) must make every attempt to confirm water availability and inform party members if special measures required e.g. carry extra water. <p>Check forecast including during trip if possible Consider cancellation or alternative venue</p>	<p>Walkers</p> <p>Leader</p> <p>Leader</p>
Snake bite	Injury	Unlikely	Medium	Low	<p>Gear checklist includes gaiters, snake bite bandage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club provides health / safety emergency response training /education. 	Club
	Death	Unlikely	Critical	Low		Club
Spending a night out in the bush on a day walk	Stress, anxiety, Exposure & dehydration	<p>Unlikely (summer)</p> <p>Unlikely (Winter)</p>	<p>Medium</p> <p>High</p>	<p>Low</p> <p>Low</p>	<p>Group has emergency gear in day packs such as bivvy bags & warm clothing, communications and PLB</p> <p>Carry extra food and matches</p> <p>Leader and walkers are well trained and experienced</p> <p>Return early if the going is slower than expected</p>	<p>Leader</p> <p>Walker</p> <p>Club / leader / walkers</p>
Slippery	Slips & falls	Moderate	High	High	Have appropriate	Walker



surfaces from snow, ice, mud, tree roots, lichen etc.	resulting in injury or death Hypothermia if falling into water	(Winter) Unlikely (summer)	High	Low	footwear for conditions, ice grippers, snow shoes or crampons Consider cancellation or alternative venue Group made aware of likely track conditions before walk	Leader
Night time walking	Increase risk of getting lost, trips & falls hitting your head on objects Refer to spending a night out risks Slows group down which may increase fatigue	Moderate	Medium	Medium	Have a; experienced group, GPS & good navigation skills, good quality head torches (carry spare batteries) and an escape plan if slow going	Leader & walkers
Boulder and rock climbing (non-technical)	Slips & falls resulting in injury or death	Moderate	High	High	Good foot wear, use ropes & harnesses if trained to use.	Walker
	Trapped on a ledge resulting in spending a night out	Moderate	Medium	Medium	Assess hand and foot holds before attempting the climb. Assess skills of group, weather conditions wind and rain increase the risk	Leader Leader
					Check the rock surface and determine if it is slippery	Walker
Creek crossing (shallow)	Slips & falls resulting in injury	Moderate	Medium	Medium	Check the river bed conditions and slipperiness	Leader & walker



water					of rocks Wear boots on crossing use support e.g. walking pole	
River crossing (deep)	Drowning Getting stuck and unable to get back Washed down stream	Moderate	High	High	Check depth, water flow rate, crossing technique, is swimming required? Undo pack Consider alternative route or waiting for water level to subside	Leader & walker Leader

General risk mitigation measures –

- Training and experience of leader and group
- Group has appropriate gear for the trip
- Detailed walk description and vetting of participants
- Some walks are only suitable for experienced walkers
- Need to demonstrate skills & experience, such as what walks has the person done recently and how many years have they been bushwalking. It may be advisable to discuss competence of walker not known to the leader with other leaders who have walked with that person.
- Walks leaders should have appropriate skills and experience to do higher risk walks
- Provide essential skills training & scenarios exercises
- Develop policies and procedures for risk controls
- Mentor leaders

Risk Rating Table

Likelihood	Consequences			
	Critical	High	Medium	Low
Almost certain	High risk	High risk	Medium risk	Low risk
Likely	High risk	High risk	Medium risk	Low risk
Moderate	High risk	High risk	Medium risk	Low risk
Unlikely	Low risk	Low risk	Low risk	Low risk

Adapted from Bushwalk Australia National



risk Management Guidelines.