

10.7.9 CRATE STACKING – CHIEF COMMISSIONERS DIRECTIVE – STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE (SOP)

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1 Purpose

The purpose of this Chief Commissioner’s Directive is to outline operational arrangements to support the undertaking of the activity known as crate stacking. This Directive fits within policy 10.7 *Adventurous Activities*. This Directive should be read in conjunction with the policy.

2 Definitions

Crate – generally a cube of approximately 35 cm dimensions, usually constructed of plastic, and generally used for everyday storage purposes. Often similar to milk crates as used by dairy companies.

Crate Stacking – an activity where a temporary stack of crates is assembled into a vertical stack and where a person climbs the stack. The person is able to securely climb given the use of a harness and rope, under supervision and with belaying techniques used.

3 Operating environment

1. A suitable operating environment to conduct crate stacking will give due consideration to the following –

- A firm and dry surface;
- Dry weather with little wind;
- A suitable belay point, whether natural such as a reliable tree or artificial such as a horizontal beam; and
- Sufficient clearance from other items or activities.

4 Safety

2. Safety is a primary consideration when undertaking crate stacking. The following are to apply –

- The activity is to be led by those qualified to do so – see Qualifications section below;

- The location to be used is to be assessed prior to the commencement of the activity, even when previously assessed;
- A safety briefing is to occur prior to the commencement of the activity, with reminders of key safety aspects provided during the activity;
- Equipment is to be checked prior to the commencement of the activity, and during the activity particularly in the event of any slips, falls, dropping of equipment, or as deemed necessary by the qualified Leader of the activity;
- Participants waiting to undertake crate stacking, resting after a turn, or otherwise not directly participating need to be located in a defined and separate area to the crate stacking. As a guide ten metres would be considered appropriate;
- Participants clothing needs to be suitable for crate stacking. Loose items need to be removed or appropriately secured to prevent catching on equipment such as crates or ropes;
- Where conducted outside due care needs to be considered to the weather and conditions. Appropriate sunscreen, water, etc should be available. In poor, cold, or hot weather participants should be assessed regularly to determine if the activity can continue;
- Where participants are more than 1.5 metres above the ground or surface, they are to wear a suitable helmet – of the kind used for abseiling, caving, or climbing.
- Where participants are more than 1.5 metres above the ground or surface, a supervised top belay set up and participant harnesses are to be used. This includes the use of sound harnesses, carabiners, and ropes, and a safe anchor point, checked by a person qualified to do so. While participants are able to fit a harness under direction and where able to do so, each participant's harness must be checked by a qualified person.

5 Qualifications

3. The qualifications for those responsible for a crate stacking activity are as follows –
 - An adult who holds a Certificate of Adult Appointment (CoAA), meaning they are an Adult Leader; and
 - Hold as a minimum a Scout qualification as a *Trained Participant* in Abseiling or Top Rope Climbing; or Caving if this has included the use of belays.

Those holding such a qualification will be issued notice of the qualification, and those with such qualifications are recorded and made available through the Scouts ACT website.

The only exception to this qualification requirement is if those undertaking crate stacking are to be no higher than 1.5 metres above the ground or surface, in which case a person holding a CoAA may be responsible for the activity.

6 Equipment

4. Appropriate equipment is required to support undertake safe crate stacking activities.
5. For crate stacking where participants are no more than 1.5 metres above the ground or surface, the primary equipment is the crates. Crates should be checked before each use for cracks, sharp edges, etc; and stored well to support longer term use.
6. For crate stacking where participants are more than 1.5 metres above the ground or surface, in addition to the use of sound crates, helmets, harnesses, carabiners, and ropes used in the activity are to –

- to be recorded on an inventory;
- stored in safe and dry conditions;
- remain in date where so stamped;
- checked for wear and tear before and after each use; and
- replaced according to wear and tear concerns, becoming out of date, or where usage limits are reached if they apply, e.g. hours of use.

7. Gloves and other protective equipment may be useful.

7 Authority

This Chief Commissioner's Directive/Standard Operating Procedure was approved by the Chief Commissioner on 9 June 2022.