

Risk assessment

Name of activity, event, and location	1 st Market Bosworth Scout Group – fire building	Date of risk assessment	01/10/2023	Name of person doing this risk assessment	Simon Jeffers – Group Lead Volunteer
		Date of next review	01/10/2025 or after significant change or incident		

What hazard have you identified? What are the risks from it?	Who is at risk?	How are the risks already controlled? What extra controls are needed?	What has changed that needs to be thought about and controlled?
<p>A hazard is something that may cause harm or damage.</p> <p>The risk is the harm that may occur from the hazard.</p>	For example: young people, leaders, visitors	<p>Controls are ways of making the activity safer by removing or reducing the risk from it. For example, you may use a different piece of equipment or you might change the way you do the activity.</p>	<p>Keep checking throughout the activity in case you need to change what you're doing or even stop the activity.</p> <p>This is a great place to add comments which will be used as part of the review.</p>
General obstructions (equipment and other items) – risk of injuries to participants or leaders setting up, moving, or removing items.	Young people and leaders	Leaders and Young Leaders should oversee setting up any equipment used for the activity and moving to where it is needed, especially on uneven ground outdoors. No one should carry larger or awkward items on their own if possible.	
Rough wood – risk of splinters or blisters from handling. Injuries from nails or staples in hands. Injuries to feet from standing on nails embedded in wood in the wood pile	All present	Leaders should tell everyone to take care when collecting, cutting or snapping wood. Participants should wear strong gloves if they can. Have appropriate gloves available. Care must be taken when standing on wood and strong foot wear to be worn.	
Sharp items (saws, axes, and knives) – risk of injuries from mistakes or misuse.	All present	Leaders should be competent and give young people information and training before they use sharp items. Leaders should supervise young people and continue to assess their competence. There should be at least one adult or Young Leader for each group taking part. Count out the sharp items and be clear on how many are being used. Then count the sharp items back in to make sure they're all returned. Keep items masked (have their blade covered) and stored safely between uses.	
Axe and saw – risk of injury to non-participants or observers.	All present	Create a safe cutting area (check guidance for safe size and distances).	
Heat sources – risk of burns from mistakes or misuse. Starting fires - creating sparks	All present	Leaders should supervise young people when they're using hot items (such as ovens, stoves, candles, and fires). There should be at least one adult or Young Leader with each group. Consider the most appropriate size of group in relation to the equipment/heat source or fire in use. Restrict access to the fire/equipment/heat source by using them in a defined area.	

You can find more information in the [Safety Checklist for Leaders](#) and at scouts.org.uk/safety

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		<p>Brief young people on the safe use of the equipment or fire before they use them and on the possible dangers of firelighting.</p> <p>Explain the rules for firelighting including: no picking up burning wood, no throwing objects onto the fire, and hold wood by one end and lower it onto the fire with your fingers near the ground. Do not add other items to the fire such as rubbish.</p> <p>To start a fire only use kindling or bought fire lighters. Do not use accelerants on the fire (any substance or mixture that accelerates or speeds the development and escalation of fire) – such as petrol, lighter fuel and other spirits.</p> <p>Avoid loose clothing around fires – watch out for open coats, sleeves and scarves. Tuck them in and keep coats, hoodies fastened. Tie back loose hair. Do not reach over fires or flames.</p> <p>Make sure there is an appropriate first aid kit available and that leader training is up to date.</p> <p>Make sure that cold water is available nearby – there should be at least a bucket, running water is best if possible.</p>	
Fire – risk of uncontrolled spread of fire.	All present	<p>Leaders should make sure fire fighting equipment is available. Options include extinguishers, fire buckets, spades, and beaters.</p> <p>Everyone should think about location of their fire. It shouldn't be near tents or directly under low trees that could be damaged. They should also consider wind direction.</p> <p>Everyone should build their fire off the ground on a stable platform when possible.</p>	
Behaviour – risk of overexcitement, especially at the start and end of the meeting.	All present	<p>Everyone should follow the section code of conduct that sets clear expectations of behaviour.</p>	
Pollutants from wood – risk of ill health to participants.	All present	<p>Only use natural wood for cooking. Avoid treated wood, such as some pallets or old fencing and furniture.</p> <p>Check the wood from the wood pile before the meeting and decide whether it's suitable.</p>	
Smoke - inhalation leading to breathing difficulties or eye injury	All present	<p>Leaders should supervise young people, and remind them to remove themselves from the smoke if wind direction changes.</p>	

Change Log

Date	Change
16th June 2023	No changes - Paul Winfield – Scout Assistant Section Leader
01/10/2023	Review date extended to two years or after significant change or incident - Simon Jeffers – Group Lead Volunteer

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