

Risk assessment

Name of activity, event, and location	1 st Market Bosworth Scout Group – knives, axes, and saws	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>
Rough wood – risk of splinters or blisters from handling	All present	<p>Tell people to take care when cutting or snapping wood.</p> <p>Wear strong gloves if you have them – bear in mind that gloves may affect your grip. Do not use knives, axes or saws with gloves.</p>	
Behaviour or overexcitement – risk of injuries from mistakes or misuse	All present	<p>Have a section code of conduct to set clear expectations of behaviour.</p> <p>Stress the importance of being responsible when using sharp tools.</p> <p>Give young people information and training before they use sharp items.</p> <p>Supervise young people closely while they use sharp items. Continue to assess their competence. Have one adult or young leader for each group – consider the ratio depending on age and behaviour.</p> <p>Count out the sharp items and be clear on how many are being used. Count them back in to make sure they're all returned.</p> <p>Mask items (cover the blade) and store them safely between uses. Keep the items locked where possible.</p> <p>Plan another activity for Scouts whose parents don't want them to take part in practical activities using knives and Scouts who aren't ready for this type of activity.</p>	
Struck by sharp tool – risk of injury to non-participants or observers	Young people and leaders	<p>Create a safe cutting area; check guidance for safe size and distances.</p> <p>Don't wear scarves, ties, lanyards or any loose clothing or jewellery and tie back long hair to prevent axes from getting caught.</p> <p>Mask the axe (cover the blade) when you're not using it.</p>	
Struck by tool – risk of injury to users	Young people and leaders	<p>Inspect the axe before use. Never use it if the head and handle don't line up or if the head is loose.</p> <p>Don't use a blunt axe.</p> <p>Don't use an axe in poor light.</p> <p>Put a chopping block below wood before you cut it.</p>	

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

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		<p>Use a kneeling position so if you miss your material the axe won't follow through to your leg.</p> <p>If you're splitting wood, use another stick to hold it up so you can keep your fingers away from the area being cut.</p> <p>Stop using the axe if you feel tired.</p>	
Cuts – from sharing or moving tools	Everyone	<p>Explain how to take a knife out of its sheath safely while keeping your fingers away from the blade.</p> <p>Carry the axe properly: it should be in your hand with your arm by your side, the axe bit should face forward, and your fingers should be out of the way.</p> <p>Mask the axe (cover the blade) before you carry it.</p> <p>If you need to pass the axe to someone else, stand side by side facing the same direction. Pass the head of the axe first.</p>	
Knife work – risk of slips and cuts	Everyone	<p>Practice your own knife skills before you begin any practical sessions with your section.</p> <p>Explain knife law and safety before you begin.</p> <p>At the end of the session, collect and safely store any tools you've used.</p> <p>Have a suitable, safe storage. Use it to show everyone how to store tools and help them understand why.</p> <p>Start with a small knife (such as a Swiss Army Knife) and complete small tasks. Build up to a larger blade as people become more confident and dexterous.</p>	
Injuries – first aid required	Everyone	<p>Make sure there's a first aid kit and a first aider on hand.</p> <p>Practice treating and dressing cuts before you start a practical exercise.</p>	

Change Log

Date	Change
16th June 2023	Do not use gloves with sharpe tools, Correct to spellings and sharpes to be locked where possible - 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 Volaunteer

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