



1st Kesgrave Scout Group

Twelve Acre Approach, Kesgrave, Suffolk IP5 1JF

Name of activity, section, event, and location	1 st Kesgrave Scout Group - Fires/Camp Fires and Fire Lighting	Date of risk assessment	16 June 22	Name of person who undertook this risk assessment	Alan Comber (working with others)
		Date of next review	28 Dec 2022 (or with significant change to environment)		

This document covers fires and fire lighting. It should be read in conjunction with the section meeting risk assessment which covers generic items and the knife, axes and saws and cooking risk assessments if appropriate

Hazard identified? 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 may occur from the hazard.</p>	<p>For example: young people, adult volunteers, visitors</p>	<p>Controls are ways of making the activity safer by removing or reducing the risk from it.</p> <p>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 are 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>
<p>Lone working – People on their own - risk of a medical or other incident occurring they cannot deal with adequately</p>	<p>Leaders and helpers</p>	<p>No one should be left alone unless in an emergency when no other option is available.</p>	
<p>Traffic – injuries from collisions between vehicles and people</p>	<p>All present</p>	<p>See Section meeting risk assessment for details – particularly dropping off wood.</p>	
<p>Terrain / Layout</p>	<p>All present</p>	<p>See Section meeting risk assessment for details.</p>	

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<p>Protrusions, slips, trips, falls, collisions – injuries to people moving around</p>	<p>All present</p>	<p>See Section meeting risk assessment for details – particularly slippery/uneven surfaces, lighting levels, free from clutter and sharp objects.</p> <p>Ensure all wood / combustible material for the fire is stored / stacked safely.</p> <p>Consider barriers / bollards / a cordoned off area to improve safety.</p>	
<p>Manual Handling – back injuries, strains, cuts, bruises etc</p>	<p>All present</p>	<p>Ensure appropriate safety equipment is available and worn if required eg gloves to stop splinters, hot cloths/gloves or hooks/tongs to remove hot objects, etc However, bear in mind that gloves may affect your grip.</p> <p>Ensure participants don't carry more than they can lift/manage safely. Consider carrying heavier objects with two or more people or using appropriate transportation mechanisms (trolleys etc).</p> <p>Remind people how to lift and carry safely if necessary.</p> <p>All lifting and carrying by young people to be supervised by adults.</p> <p>Participants instructed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • only pick up small sticks and logs. • never carry timber above shoulder height and take care when turning with the wood to prevent contact with other people. 	
<p>Equipment used – injuries to people during the activity.</p>		<p>See Section meeting risk assessment for details – particularly checking equipment before use, put away after use clean and dry.</p>	
<p>Materials / Rubbish – cuts, allergic reactions, contamination, stains etc.</p>	<p>All present</p>	<p>Ensure any rubbish and unused materials are removed at appropriate intervals during and at the end of any activity.</p>	
<p>Clothing / Personal kit - footwear and clothing.</p>	<p>All present</p>	<p>All participants to wear appropriate clothing for the weather conditions, type of terrain and time of year.</p> <p>Ensure participants are wearing suitable footwear – not easy to puncture soles, cover feet, will not melt easily, shoelaces done up etc.</p>	
<p>Fire activity – injuries to people caused by equipment used during fire lighting and managing the fire.</p> <p>Burns and sparks, smoke inhalation etc</p>	<p>All present</p>	<p><u>Location</u></p> <p>Ensure fire is built:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • on a level surface. • in a location away from combustible materials eg tents, foliage, dry wood 	

piles, buildings, chemicals etc.

- in an area that minimises the environmental impact. Consider use of a fire bin, fire pit, concrete slab, defined campfire area etc.
- to take account of the prevailing wind to ensure any smoke and sparks move in a safe direction ie don't pose a fire or smoke inhalation / contamination issue.

Where fires are allowed to be built on grassed/fresh soil areas, the topsoil / turf should be removed, stored away from the fire (turf should be upside down), kept moist and placed back over the fire area when fires are no longer required and flattened to restore the area, as far as possible, to its original state.

Area should be organised to minimise risks ie keep any tables, food preparation areas wood piles etc away from the fire to allow free movement and any chances of catching fire.

Preparation and Lighting

Ensure wood is cut in a controlled area by experienced leaders. If young people participate, they are supervised by leaders. (See knife, axe and saw risk assessment for more details).

Petrol or other highly flammable liquids should not be used for lighting fires.

Commonly used accelerants such as Vaseline etc should only be used after suitable training/instructions on how to use them safely. Quantities used should be kept to the minimum required to successfully start the fire.

Fire Management/Safety

Ensure:

- Fires are built in a shape that allows them to fall into the middle as it burns and does not spread outwards.
- Fires are not left unattended at any point when being used for an activity.
- Fresh, green, or damp wood is not put on the fire. It is likely to spit or create unnecessary smoke.
- Wood used is suitable for the fire being built– some wood types can be difficult to burn, spit or produce low heats - and do not contain contaminants eg preservatives, paint etc.
- Fire does not get too high.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any wood used should be no longer than any fire bin used and not stick over the edge, or for campfires or fires on the ground, not long enough that if it falls would touch anyone cooking, sitting, or standing around the fire. • Sufficient emergency fire control facilities\measures are in place commensurate with the number of fires and their size ie fire extinguishers, water/sand buckets, fire blankets, fire dampers, spade/shovel etc. • The fire is safe at the end of the activity – put out or left to burn itself out as appropriate, taking account of weather conditions (wind speed) and the dryness of the surrounding area. Clear unused wood, etc. from around the fire before leaving. Consider using sand, water, or old ashes to extinguish or reduce the fire if it is too big at the end of the activity. <p><u>Personal Safety</u></p> <p>Ensure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participant’s clothing is suitable (not unduly flammable), no dangling elements, covers sensitive skin areas etc. • Personal possessions are kept away from the fire (trip and fire hazard). • Participants are standing downwind as much as possible to reduce smoke inhalation and dangers from embers. <p><u>General Safety</u></p> <p>Any accelerants used such as Vaseline etc should be stored in suitable containers (eg boxes, bottles etc) and kept away from the fires when not being used.</p> <p>Fire lighting materials (matches, lighters, briquettes, etc.) should not be left unattended around the fire. They should be issued in small quantities and when not in use should be placed in a sealed dry secure storage away from flammable materials/sources.</p> <p>Participants should be briefed on the fire lighting activity and cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • being careful with wood to avoid splinters including the wearing of gloves if necessary • safe fire lighting techniques and the effect of wind direction, etc. • handling of hot items and what participants are allowed to do during the activity. 	
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • safe use of matches/lighting tool. • What to do in an emergency. <p>Participants should be positioned so leaders can see them all the while they are involved with the fires and/or cooking.</p>	
Cooking inc backwoods cooking		<p>Ensure all participants wash and disinfect their hands before participating in any cooking or eating activities and wash their hands during the activity if necessary and at the end of the session.</p> <p>Check ingredients before use if any people have allergies or specific food requirements.</p> <p>Ensure hot equipment (eg pans, billies etc) are not left lying around. Have a designated place set aside and/or use a tray.</p> <p>Cooking will only be allowed once the fire has stabilized ie cooking over embers rather than flames.</p> <p>Participants should be briefed before and during the cooking activity as appropriate to their abilities/knowledge on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What they are cooking. • How they are going to prepare it. • How they are going to cook it. • How to identify when items are cooked and suitable to eat. • How they will get items being cooked on and off the fire safely. • Being careful with warm food and eating it. <p>Participants will be monitored and supervised during the cooking activities to minimise risks.</p>	
Personal Well Being	All present	<p>Ensure participants have sufficient/adequate personal kit taking in to account the time of day and the time of year eg sun cream, lip balm, glasses, torch, first aid kit etc</p> <p>If any participant is taking regular medicines, they have them with them and take at the prescribed time.</p> <p>If any participant has a serious medical condition, they are carrying appropriate medicines eg inhalers, EpiPens etc. with them or given to an adult to carry. Ensure it is in a suitable container and location known and someone can administer it in an</p>	

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		emergency.	
Peer Led Activities	All present	- Ensure participants are adequately trained and capable of lighting fires safely. - Ensure a supervision plan in place.	
Behaviour – horseplay, overexcitement, injuries.	All taking part	<p>Participants will only be able to make fires and cook if leaders are sure their behaviour is safe.</p> <p>Participants should be briefed as appropriate to their abilities/knowledge on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not playing with the fire, waving a lighted stick, have lighted items above shoulder height, picking up any part of the fire or to touch the fire once it is lit. Only to give the fire the attention it needs to keep going. • Not throwing fuel or accelerants on the fire eg oil, meths, lighter fluid etc. • Not throwing objects such as cans, bottles, aerosols, stones etc on the fire as this is dangerous. Objects may explode. • Not to throw wood on the fire. This can send ash/embers into the air. • Not to disturb the fire unduly if it is windy – you are more likely to send ash/embers into the air. • The dangers of fires including not running around the fire area, jumping over fires, or leaning over the fire. • Not getting too close to the fire or crowd the fire. Consider defining a line that must not be crossed. <p>The area immediately around a fire should not be walked through; only individuals tending the fire or participating in the activity should be in close proximity. If necessary, consider physically marking out a 'restricted' area.</p> <p>Behaviour will be monitored for horseplay, dangerous activities etc and the activity will be stopped or a cooling off period introduced if the activity gets out of hand or injuries are likely to happen. A clear communication method will be used to stop the activity if necessary.</p> <p>Consider dividing up the participants lighting fires and cooking into smaller groups, so that everyone is occupied, and groups are well matched in terms of cooking ability, temperament, working together etc.</p>	
Behaviour – leadership	Leaders and Helpers	Adults briefed on their role.	

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		<p>Sufficient leaders / helpers available to run the activity.</p> <p>Someone familiar with lighting fires.</p>	
Behaviour - Confrontation / interactions with members of public	All present	Appropriate briefing of leaders on expected behaviour and young people on required behaviour / Code of Conduct.	
Emergencies	All present	<i>See Section meeting risk assessment for details</i>	
Security / Kit Theft	All present	<i>See Section meeting risk assessment for details</i>	
Safeguarding / Lost	All present	<i>See Section meeting risk assessment for details</i>	
Weather – accidents and injuries	All present	Assess the weather and make appropriate adjustments including bad weather activities ready if required.	
First Aid / Injuries that need treatment / Incident	All present	<p><i>See Section meeting risk assessment for details – particularly the first aid kit being suitable for the type of injuries that might result.</i></p> <p>As a minimum a first aid qualified person will be present/nearby to deal with first aid incidents eg splinters, burns etc</p> <p>Ensure sufficient qualified first aiders present to deal with the numbers taking part and the types of injuries for the activity being undertaken.</p> <p>Ensure first aid kits take account of the activities being delivered ie include burns kits etc.</p> <p>Ensure the details of the local A&E department, local doctors, pharmacies etc known.</p> <p>Tweezers should be considered to help with removal of splinters.</p> <p>A bucket of cold water or a running tap should be available nearby for the immersion of burns.</p> <p>Ensure you have a torch easily and quickly available if the activity takes place at night.</p> <p>If a casualty suffers burns, they will be taken to cold running water as quickly as possible.</p> <p>Ensure participants can easily move away from the fire area in the event of an emergency.</p>	

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Accessibility / Inclusiveness / Health Issues	All present	Ensure any accessibility, disability, or behavioural issues have been taken account of. Ensure the activity is suitable for the age group and their abilities. Ensure allergy or other health issues been taken account of. Ensure the planned activity takes account of additional environmental hazards such as heatstroke, sunburn, ticks and other insects and animals.	
Emergency access routes	All present	Ensure emergency access points are known and not blocked / locked.	