

Risk assessment

Firepit & Campfire



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

UKHQ template published January 2023



Risk assessment

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|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------------|---|---------------------|
| Name of activity, event, and location | Firepit & Campfire RA | Date of risk assessment | August 2024 | Name of person doing this risk assessment | Jane Leadbetter GLV |
| | | Date of next review | August 2026 | | |

| What could go wrong? What hazard have you identified? What are the risks from it? | Who is at risk? | What are you going to do about it? How are the risks already controlled? What extra controls are needed? How will they be communicated to young people and adults and remain inclusive to all needs? | Review & revise 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, adult volunteers, visitors | <p>Controls are ways of making the activity safer by removing or reducing the risk.</p> <p>For example, you may use a different piece of equipment or you might change the way you do the activity.</p> | Keep checking throughout the activity in case you need to change what you're doing or even stop the activity. |
| <p>For example:</p> <p>Hazard: fire</p> <p>Risk: smoke inhalation or burns</p> | Leaders, vistors, Young Leaders, Scouts | <p>Smoke: use dry wood, check wind direction, stand people out of smoke direction.</p> <p>Burns: stay a safe distance from fire, place extra wood on caefully, teach Scouts good practice around fires, have a burns first aid kit easily available.</p> | This is a great place to add comments which will be used as part of the review. |
| Campfire – general Burns, smoke inhalation, damage to property & the environment, trips, falls, cuts, eye injuries etc. | All involved | <p>All participants to be briefed on dangers associated with campfires,</p> <p>All participants to be briefed on what to do in an emergency.</p> <p>All participants to be briefed on expected standards of behaviour around a campfire</p> <p>Seating arrangements to be upwind of fire if possible</p> <p>Anyone with long hair to tie back to save touching flames.</p> <p>Water buckets to be positioned around campfire</p> <p>Cooking 'sticks' or skewers to be pre soaked in water to avoid burning.</p> <p>All adults attending to be aware of First Aid burns treatment sheet.</p> <p>First Aider to be in attendance</p> | |
| Building & tending the fire Trips, falls, injuries | Adult volunteers | <p>Fire site to be carefully chosen.</p> <p>Building of the fire to be supervised by competent adult at all times</p> <p>Size of fire to be controlled.</p> <p>Fuel not to be stored in immediate vicinity of the fire</p> <p>Fire not to be left unattended at any time once lit</p> <p>Person/team in charge of the fire to ensure the fire is fully extinguished before leaving the area.</p> <p>Hot ashes to be disposed of carefully.</p> | |

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| Behaviour Injuries resulting from inappropriate behaviour | All involved | Leaders to be in attendance throughout Participants to be briefed on safety before activities commence Participants to be briefed on standards of behaviour Participants displaying unacceptable standards of behaviour to be sent out of the activity area. | |
| Arrival /seating / departure Incidents/injuries caused by inadequate controls and supervision | All involved | All activities to be controlled by leaders. Minimum of two campfire leaders at all times. Leaders to wear hi-viz jkts. Participants to be directed to seating areas Suggested seating area to be in a safe circle distanced from the firepit. Benches or chairs. Departure from campfire to be controlled to avoid accidents. First Aider to be in attendance. | |
| Campfire cooking Access to firepit, burns, smoke inhalation. | All involved | All participants to be briefed that leaders and adult volunteers only will place/remove any food on the fire All participants to be briefed on dangers of standing close by a firepit whilst toasting food. All participants to be informed to wait for 10 seconds before attempting to eat hot marshmallows or food to prevent burning mouths.All participants to be briefed on expected standards of behaviour. | |
| Food allergies | | Check parent info sheets for any allergies. Have packets/wrappers available for all to check on ingredients. | |

Don't forget, as part of your programme planning, you should have contingency activities in reserve just in case you can't do what was planned or you need to stop half way through. Make sure this is shared with those involved, so everyone knows how to respond. You should have risk assessed contingency activities prior to them taking place and communicated key information to those involved as with all activities.

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