

## Risk assessment

Name of activity, event, and location	Axe and Saw Section meetings / Camping Scout HQ / Scout Campsite	Date of risk assessment	April 2021 17 May 23	Name of person doing this risk assessment	Stuart Collett
		Date of next review	17 May 25		

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?
<b>A hazard</b> is something that may cause harm or damage. <b>The risk</b> is the harm that may occur from the hazard.	For example: young people, adult volunteers, visitors	<b>Controls</b> are ways of making the activity safer by removing or reducing the risk. For example, you may use a different piece of equipment or you might change the way you do the activity.	Keep <b>checking</b> throughout the activity in case you need to change what you're doing or even <b>stop</b> the activity.  This is a great place to add comments which will be used as part of the review.
Hazard - incorrect use of equipment Risk - injury/death	All	Use equipment of suitable size and weight that is suited to the task and young persons ability. Safety briefing on use of equipment given before being allowed to proceed. Leader to supervise as appropriate.	
Hazard - clothing/hair  Risk - injury/death	All	Wear appropriate clothing and footwear. Avoid wearing scarf, lanyards or any loose items that could be snared. No opened toed shoes to be worn. Hair tied back.	
Hazard - damaged tools Risk - injury/death	All	Inspect equipment before use. Check for damaged/loose parts. Check everything is secure as intended. Never use a blunt axe/saw that may slip or bounce.	
Hazard - being hit by axe/saw Risk - injury/death	All	Mark out a clear chopping area a safe distance from the fire. Chopping area must be free of obstructions and trip hazards and at least three axe lengths in radius (Outstretched are plus three lengths of the axe) Place a suitable chopping block in the centre Axes should only be used in the designated area. Only the person using the axe in the area. The leader instructing should demonstrate and instruct the young people. Nobody else should be in the area when axe is being used. Only people properly trained and suitable dressed to use axe and saw area. Leader supervision as appropriate.	
Hazard - horseplay Risk - injury/death	All	Activity to stop if young people/adults will not obey the safety rules.	

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

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Hazard - unauthorised use of equipment Risk - injury/death	All	Keep axe and saws dry. Never leave out over night. Store in a suitable tent / storage box as appropriate.	
Hazard - axes/saws not in use Risk - injury/death	All	Fit masks or sheaths to axe head and saw blade as appropriate. Do not plant axe into ground. Temporally store the axe securely in the chopping block so the shaft does not cause a trip hazard. Do not leave equipment on the ground as a trip hazard.	

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