

Risk Assessment – Axe and Saw

Name of activity, event, and location	Axe and Saw Section meetings / Camping Scout HQ / Scout Campsite	Date of risk assessment	08/06/2026	Name of person doing this risk assessment	Stuart Collett
		Date of next review	08/06/2027	Version	1.0

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?
A hazard is something that may cause harm or damage. The risk is the harm that may occur from the hazard.	For example: young people, adult volunteers, visitors	Controls 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 checking throughout the activity in case you need to change what you're doing or even stop 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 person's 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 a 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 arm 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 should demonstrate and instruct the young people. Nobody else should be in the area when the axe is being used. Only people properly trained and suitable dressed to use the 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

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Hazard - unauthorised use of equipment Risk - injury/death	All	Keep axes and saws dry. Never leave out overnight. Store in a suitable tent / storage box as appropriate.	
Hazard - axes/saws not in use Risk - injury/death	All	Fit masks or sheaths to the axe head and saw blade as appropriate. Do not plant axes into the 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.	

DOCUMENT VERSION CONTROL

Version Number	Changes Made	Changes Made By	Date
1.0	Document Version Control Log Created	Kyla Flack	16/09/2026

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