

Risk assessment

Name of activity, event, and location	Fire Lighting both at the Scout hall and at campsites	Date of risk assessment	12/04/2021 17/5/2023 5/10/2024 21/10/2025 27/03/2026	Name of person doing this risk assessment	Martin Holtham-Payne Stuart Collett / Vicki Carcary
		Date of next review	27/ 03/2027 V0		

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, leaders, visitors	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.	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.
Rough wood – risk of splinters or blisters from handling	Everyone	Tell people to take care when cutting or snapping wood.	
Behaviour or overexcitement – risk of injuries from mistakes or misuse	Everyone	Have a section rules / code of conduct to set clear expectations of behaviour. Stress the importance of being responsible when around the fires. Give young people information and training before they start. Supervise young people closely while around the fires. Continue to assess their competence. Have one adult or young leader for each group – consider the ratio depending on age and behaviour. Instruct YP not to hit each other with sticks/wood.	
Burns – risk of injury to non-participants or observers	Everyone	Create a safe area for fire lighting Explain the dangers of fires Instruct YP not to get too close to the fire Instruct YP not to pick up wood from the fire No throwing wood into the fire carelessly. No loose clothing, Scarves to be tucked in or removed. Bucket of water available close by. Be aware of the nearest tap in the meeting place.	
Burns – Hand Sanitiser	Everyone	All to make sure hands are dry after application of sanitiser before approaching the fire.	

You can find more information in the Safety Checklist for Leaders and at scouts.org.uk/safety

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Fire spreading	Everyone	Ensure the area is safe for fire lighting e.g. Hard surface, Fire pit, Oil drum Ensure adequate fire fighting equipment is located nearby (fire buckets) Ensure any combustibles are away from the fire when not required. Ensure all fires are well supervised.	
General – risk of slips, Trips, Falls	Everyone	Ensure ground is suitable for use. Ensure young people have suitable footwear (No sandals/open toe'd shoes etc). Communicate this to parents via OSM. Participants warned about the ground. No running near the fires	
Injuries – first aid required	Everyone	Make sure there's a first aid kit and a first aider on hand.	
Pollutants within wood	Everyone	Ensure wood is not painted/stained that will give off chemicals. Only natural wood to be used	

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8th Chelmsford Scout Group – Firelighting