

5th Dunstable ScoutGroup - Risk Assessment

Version	Produced By	Date	Content
1	Ian Ellis	11/12/2020	Axe & Saw
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Use of Axe and Saw Risk assessment			Date of next review
Hazard/Risk	To Whom	Controls	Changes which need controlling
Hazard - Incorrect use of equipment. Risk - Injury/Death	All	Use of appropriately sized and weighted tools that are suited to the job and the user's level of ability. Safety briefing on use of equipment given before being allowed to use the tool. Wearing of appropriate PPE such as safety glasses for axe work, and the use of heavy duty work gloves when using a saw. Competent adult to supervise as appropriate.	11/12/2022
Hazard - Clothing/hair Risk - Injury/death	All	Wear appropriate clothing and footwear, avoid scarves, lanyards or any loose items that could be snared. Boots should be worn rather than trainers. Tie long hair back.	
Hazard - damaged tools Risk - Injury/death	All	Competenet adult to inspect tools before use. Check for damage and ensure that the parts are held together securely and safe to use. Never use a blunt axe or saw, which is likely to slip or bounce on impact.	
Hazard - Being hit by axe/saw. Risk - Injury/death	All	Mark out a clear chopping area, situated close to the fire area but separated from it by a woodpile. The chopping area must be free of obstructions and trip hazards, and at least three axe lengths in radius.(ie an outstretched arm holding an axe = an axe length). Place the chopping block in the centre. Axes should only be used in this area, which should be clearly marked and enforced as a 'no go' zone for anyone who is not properly trained or clothed. There should be a limit to the number of bystanders. Adult supervision as appropriate.	
Hazard - Horseplay. Risk - Injury/death	All	Adult supervision as appropriate. Activity to stop if safety guidelines are broken	
Hazard - Unauthorised use of equipment. Risk - Injury/death	All	Keep axes and saws dry and never leave unattended. Keep them in a locked box in the store tent when at camp or in a leader only accessible cupboard when stored at the Church.	
Hazard - Axes/saws not in use. Risk - Injury/death	All	Fit masks or sheaths to axe heads and saw blades, these should fit securely. Do not plant the axe head in the ground, an axe can be masked temporarily in the chopping block, make sure the blade is securely wedged in the block and that the shaft does not pose a trip hazard. Saws are usually supplied with a clip on mask that fits over the blade. Do not leave equipment on the ground as a trip hazard.	

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Hazard - Flying particles from tool use (wood chips, stone chips etc.)	All	Persons involved in the use of tools should wear appropriate PPE, such as safety goggles when using a axe.	
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Considerations for Squirrels

Hazard/Risk	To Whom	Controls	Changes which need controlling
See above	All	This is unlikely to be a safe activity to Squirrels due to the size of equipment.	

Considerations for Beavers

Hazard/Risk	To Whom	Controls	Changes which need controlling
See above	All	This is unlikely to be a safe activity to Beavers due to the size of equipment.	

Considerations for Cubs

Hazard/Risk	To Whom	Controls	Changes which need controlling
See above	All	As mentioned in the above controls.	

Considerations for Scouts

Hazard/Risk	To Whom	Controls	Changes which need controlling
See above	All	As mentioned in the above controls.	