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| **Name of activity, event, and location** | **axes, saws and knives** | **Date of risk assessment** | **09.06.24** | **Name of person doing this risk assessment** | **John Anderson** |
| **Date of next review** | **09.06.26** |

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| **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? |
| **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*.* |
| **Inadequate supervision –** unskilled adults failing to keep activity safe | All | Adults competent and familiar with the use of the equipment and clear on how to instruct / supervise young people with this equipmentAdults to have read guidance before supervision of axe and saw activities : [Using axe and saws safely | Scouts](https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/staying-safe-and-safeguarding/safety/keeping-safe-at-camp/using-axe-and-saws-safely/)Adults to have read guidance before supervision of knife activities :[Scout Knife Safety Guidance | Scouts](https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/staying-safe-and-safeguarding/safety/keeping-safe-at-camp/scout-knife-safety-guidance)Adults to have opportunity to practise their own skills before supervising YPSupervision plan clear so that those supervising use of equipment are not distracted by other young people not participatingCloser supervisison / 1 to 1, for young people with additional needs requiring greater support.  |  |
| **Inappropriate use of axe –** leading to injury of self or othersCuts, bruises, serious injury | All | Group safety briefing at beginning of event, giving clear guidelines on when, where and how axes can be usedAxes used in clearly defined area (consider use of roping off if this is mobile)Axe activities to cease in inadequate lightYP supervised at all times when in axe use area, group size to reflect level of supervision and space available.Leaders to assess and monitor individuals competence with axeYP and adults given guidance on axe use, including using a chopping block below wood, using a kneeling position to protect the legs, using another stick to hold up smaller wood to protect fingers, stop using the axe if you feel tired, make sure there is adequate space around you before swinging the axe, wearing appropriate clothing and PPEIf you need to pass the axe to someone else, stand side by side facing the same direction. Pass the head of the axe first. |  |
| **Inappropriate use of saw –** leading to injury of self or othersCuts, lacerations, severe injury | All | Group safety briefing at beginning of event, giving clear guidelines on when, where and how saws can be usedSaws used in clearly defined area (consider use of roping off if this is mobile)YP supervised at all times when in saw use area, group size to reflect level of supervision and space available.Leaders to assess and monitor individuals competence with sawYp and adults given guidance on saw use, including using a sawing block, adopting a safe stance to protect fingers and legs, wearing appropriate clothing and PPE, |  |
| **Inappropriate use of knife -** leading to injury of self or othersCuts, lacerations, severe injury | All  | Adults to practice their own knife skills before they begin any practical sessions with YP.Group safety briefing at beginning of event, giving clear guidelines on when, where and how knives can be used and information about knife law and safety.YP supervised at all times when using knives, group size to reflect group’s skills and level of supervision available. Leaders to assess and monitor individual’s competence with knife.YP given safety skills instruction, eg strike away from body, fingers behind knife, only whittling a small amount at a time.Start with a small knife (such as a Swiss Army Knife) and complete small tasks. Build up to a larger blade as people become more confident and dexterous.YP not to create sharp weapons (eg. spears) and play with them |  |
| **Maintenance, Storage and Transport of sharp tools –** leading to failure of tools and accidental injuries | All present | Clearly explain to all the importance of safely storing sharp toolsMask items (cover the blade) and store them safely between uses.Store sharp tools in a designated placeCount out sharp items and be clear on how many are being used. Count them back in to make sure they’re all returned.Young people not allowed to retain their own equipment, sharp items must be handed in and stored under leader supervision and only given out when adult supervision available. Inspect tools before use. Axes should not have loose heads or handles and should align properly. Saws and knives should have securely fitting blades and handles.Carry an axe properly: it should be in your hand with your arm by your side, the axe bit should face forward, and your fingers should be out of the way. Saws and knives should have baldes covered/ closed when carrying them.Do not use blunt toolsTools should be clean and dry and oiled before being put back into storage |  |
| **Inappropriate Clothing and PPE –** leading to entanglement and injury | All | Don’t wear scarves, ties, lanyards, or any loose clothing or jewellery.Tie back long hair to prevent tools from getting caught.Provide sturdy gloves for use when cutting wood using axes and saws.Ensure sturdy, well fitting footwear is worn when using sharp tools. Boots should be worn for axe use.Ensure clothes and footwear are well secured; shoelaces tied, coats done up etc. |  |
| **Behaviour or over excitement** – risk of injuries from mistakes or misuse | All present | Consider the suitability of the group for this type of activity.Have a section code of conduct to set clear expectations of behaviour.Stress the importance of being responsible when using sharp tools.Cease the use of sharp tools if members of the group are not following the rules. |  |
| **Individual needs and preferences –** exclusion and lack of alternative provision | Individuals | Make adjustments to the activity to support individual needsHave suitable alternative activities for YP who are not taking part in using sharp toolsInform and consult parents beforehand |  |
| **Cutting area –** risk of injury | All present | Make sure cutting area is of a safe size and at a safe distance Mark out cutting area using rope or tapeClear ground of trip hazards in cutting areaCutting area to be kept clear and tidyOnly designated group to be allowed in cutting area at any one time |  |
| **Collecting and handling wood** – injuries from wood and wood pileSplinters, puncture wounds, cuts, slips, trips, falls | All | Sturdy gloves provided and to be worn when handling fire woodSturdy shoes to be wornYP briefed on safety around wood pile in-situ. Supervision at wood pile may be necessary if group does not show sufficient understanding.YP guided on being careful around wood pile and when walking around site, particularly where pallets may have nails in. Wood piles never to be climbed onWhen carrying wood, only carry what you can easily manage. Work in pairs/ small groups if necessaryWhen breaking wood, be mindful of flying debris. Ensure area is clear |  |
| **Injuries** – first aid required | All present | Make sure there’s a first aid kit and a first aider on hand. Ensure an emergency response system is in place and all Leaders and helpers know what to do.Purple Cards issued and kept to hand |  |
| **What other Hazards arising do you need to consider?****Never be afraid to stop an activity if it is becoming unsafe!**  |