


RISK ASSESSMENT

LOCATION/ACTIVITY/ISSUE BEING ASSESSED:	Fire Pit @ Events
SERVICE/TEAM:	Countryside Service
NAME OF ASSESSOR(s):	Richard Ashwell
DATE OF ASSESSMENT:	19 December 2025
DATE FOR REVIEW:	December 2026
APPROVED BY:	Signature:  Date: 19/12/2025 Name: Richard Ashwell

SUMMARY (* delete as appropriate)	
Risk level without additional controls:	HIGH / MEDIUM / LOW
Additional control measures required:	YES / NO
Risk level with additional controls:	HIGH / MEDIUM / LOW

What are the significant hazards?	What could go wrong? Who could be harmed and how?	What is being done to control the risks?	Amendment notes
Hot fire, embers, burning shelters, food or drinks.	Slips and trips causing falls onto fire Burns from thermally enhanced food Burns from heated fuel	Parental Supervision of participants is primary control risk. Training and induction by specific session trained staff. Suitable briefing at all stages. Walking at all times around area of fire. Designated fire areas to be used and fire to be in ember state and doused in water before leaving at the end of a session. Water supply and fire blanket to hand to extinguish any fires. First aid kit accessible. Fresh water available to treat any burns	

		<p>Staff to brief students to wait for toasted marshmallow to cool before eating, and not to hold stick upright to prevent slipping onto hand. If marshmallow is on fire, don't panic and flick it into the air as it might hit someone else.</p> <p>Staff to brief participants to hold stick below the fire pit with the marshmallow over the fire.</p> <p>Limited numbers around the fire pits – 8 max – on signage – visible to those approaching</p> <p>Adult supervision of children required. - signage visible to those approaching.</p> <p>Fire pits to be situated in location where people can't walk through the area. Barriers used if required.</p> <p>Manual handling procedures observed when handling all equipment and fuel.</p> <p>Careful checks of site before session for potential hazards</p> <p>Briefing to participants to include not removing sticks from the fire once placed in, to avoid burns and flaming sticks striking others if they get waved about or thrown.</p> <p>Light area to improve visibility.</p> <p>Activity to be stopped in winds above 15mph to prevent embers and sparks blowing out of fire pits.</p>	
<p>Tools including knives, saws and axes</p>	<p>Cuts Scrapes Risk of severing femoral artery Amputation</p> <p>Participants Staff Members of public</p>	<p>Hatchets to be used by trained staff only. Only used in areas away from participants. Otherwise, to be kept out of reach of participants</p> <p>Knives and axes are stored in a locked box in the activities container when not in use on a session.</p> <p>First aid kit to include haemostatic agents and tourniquet</p>	

		Radio to be carried by Instructor, or mobile phone if operating further away from DAC (e.g. rangers area)	
Low level tree branch	Eye injury and impalement	Safety briefing to include working in a woodland area and the importance of looking out for low branches pulling on them or letting them swing to hit others. Spatial awareness of others.	
Trees and wood	Manual handling, lifting, Injury due to dropping Splinters Impalement Hit by falling tree limbs in extended hot weather or strong winds	Instructors to choose appropriate location. Activity to be stopped in winds above 15mph.	
Wildlife	Bites Stings Scares Ticks	Awareness of working in an area where wildlife is vast and to respect and not touch or approach any animals. Instructor to choose appropriate location to reduce ticks and other bites/stings.	
Remote Working	Endangered group if staff become incapacitated.	Instructor to have a radio when on site and a functioning and charged mobile phone.	
Ingestion of unknown substance	Illness from poison ingested while eating/after contact.	Anti-bacterial hand gel to be used prior to food handling and consumption. No raw food preparation takes place, and only food edible when not cooked is heated up on the fire and consumed.	
Unruly Participants	Burns, trips, slips, falls.	Instructor to remind parents to remind children of need to be sensible. Ask parents to remove child if necessary.	

REVIEWS AND REVISIONS					
Review date	Name of Assessor	Is assessment still valid?	If not, list adjustments with details of who will action and by when	Approved by Manager	Date of next review
Dec 2025	Richard Ashwell	yes	Doc creation – builds on bushcraft and wilderness skills risk assessment	Richard Ashwell	Dec 2026