**1st ELGIN SCOUTS**

**RISK ASSESSMENT FOR BUSHCRAFT**

**NAME OF DISTRICT/GROUP:** 1st Elgin Scouts

**NAME OF PERSON COMPLETING RISK ASSESSMENT/UPDATE:** Steven Thomson

**DATE OF RISK ASSESSMENT/UPDATE:** 24/09/2023

The aim of this risk assessment is to provide general information on the type of hazards adults and young members (as well as others who may be involved) are exposed to.

The list given is by no means an exhaustive one. Hazards which are not listed but are specific to your visit should be recorded on the blank assessment form



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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Hazard | Who may be harmed? | Risk | Control Measure  | Remaining risk |
| Collecting Wood | All | M | Brief to include staying within a designated area, not running, not moving big heavy objects (consider using a benchmark such as no thicker than your wrist) and not to carry too much at one time. | L |
| Scratches and Splinters | All | L | Leader to warn group about the possibility of splinters and avoid any wood which looks like a hazard | L |
| Toxic smoke production | All | M | Do not allow the burning of live trees Do not allow the burning of plastics etc | L |
| Burns | All | H | Have a designated area for fire lighting. Brief Scouts to pay special attention in this area and especially do not run. Group briefed not to play with fire. Once something is in the fire do not remove (only exception is some food stuffs which will be removed by the leader). Leader to ensure area is supervised at all times Water source to be nearby for quick treatment if necessary | L |
| Fire spreading / out of control | All | H | Clear the area of all combustible material before the fire is set and lit Do not build fires too big Consider using an alter fire or similar containment method Make sure fire is out before leaving | L |
| Smoke inhalation | All | H | Brief on hazard as appropriate | L |

Fire Lighting

Backwoods Cooking

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Hazard | Who may be harmed? | Risk | Control Measure | Remaining Risk |
| Burns from hot food | Participants | M | Participants reminded that food removed from a fire is still hot. Food removed from the fire using tongs Leaders to remove tin foil | L |
| Food Poisoning  | Participants | M | All meat must be checked prior to consumption Participant to sanitise their hands before food preparation and then again before consuming food | L |
| Allergic reactions | Participants | H | Leaders will be made aware of any special dietary requirements within the group First aider present at each session | L |
| Injury from utensils | Participants | M | Leaders to brief participants in the safe method of using utensils (knives etc). First aider present at each session. | L |

Shelter Building

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Hazard | Who may be harmed | Risk | Control measures | Remaining risk |
| Moving construction material | All | M | Brief to include staying within a designated area, not running, not moving object which are too big and heavy, (consider using a benchmark such as no thicker than your arm) getting help with large and long objects, awareness of others and not carrying too much at one time. No throwing of objects | L |
| Shelter collapse | All | M | Leader to visually and if necessary physically check structures for stability before structure is used. Leader to ensure supervision of the area and construction | L |
| Falling Objects | All | H | Leader to check for potential deadfall in the area | L |
| Scratches & Splinters | All | L | Leader to warn group about the possibility of splinters and avoid any wood which looks like a hazard | L |
| Rope burn  | All | M | If using rope or string leader to ensure it is being used appropriately | L |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Hazard | Who may be harmed? | Risk | Control Measures  | Remaining risk |
| Cuts | All | H | Safety brief and demonstration to be given to all groups prior to use Only use tools under the supervision of a leader. Only use axes in a designated area. Ensure safe distance between user and others. Ensure all wood to be cut is stable with no risk of slipping and no risk of blade slipping into people. Always cut away from the body. Ensure appropriate footwear and clothing is worn and hair tied back etc. Leaders to be first aid trained and have access to a first aid kit | L |
| Misuse | All | H | Only use under the supervision of a leader. Tools only used for appropriate activity. Consider excluding those who endanger themselves or others | L |
| Faulty Equipment  | All | H | Equipment to be checked for faults before each session All equipment to be stored appropriately with sheathes where necessary | L |

Axes, Knives & Saw use