Risk assessment – Fires and Campfires

Name of	1 st Anytown Scouts – fires and campfires	Date of risk	14/01/24	Name of person	Leader one (working
activity, event,	Remember – this is just a starting point for you to	assessment		doing this risk	with others)
and location	assess the risk of your event and you will need add or			assessment	
	take away hazards & controls according to your own	Date of next	14/01/25 (or when a	assessinent	
	findings.	review	significant change occurs)		
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What could go wrong?	Who is at risk?	What are you going to do about it?	Review & revise
What hazard have you identified?		How are the risks already controlled?	What has changed that needs to be thought
What are the risks from it?		What extra controls are needed?	about and controlled?
		How will they be communicated to young people and adults and remain inclusive to all needs?	
A hazard is something that may cause harm or damage.	For example: young people,	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.
The risk is the harm that may occur from	adult volunteers,	To example, you may use a uniferent piece of equipment of you might change are way you do the accurry.	This is a great place to add comments which will be
the hazard.	visitors		used as part of the review.
General obstructions	Young People	Leaders and Young Leaders should oversee setting up any equipment used	
(equipment and other	Volunteers	for the activity and moving to where it is needed, especially on uneven	
items) – risk of injuries to		ground outdoors.	
participants or leaders		No one should carry larger or awkward items on their own if possible.	
setting up, moving, or		Care to be taken to ensure equipment has fully cooled before moving it at the	
removing items.		end of the session.Keep any woodpiles a safe distance from the fire to avoid	
		tripping on it and falling into the fire.	
Rough wood – risk of	Young People	Leaders should tell everyone to take care when collecting, cutting or	
splinters or blisters from	Volunteers	snapping wood.	
handling. Injuries from nails		Young People supervised around wood piles and instructed not to climb over	
or staples in hands. Injuries		them.	
to feet from standing on		Participants should wear appropriate gloves.	
nails embedded in wood in		Care must be taken when standing on wood and strong foot wear to be worn.	
the wood pile			
Sharp items (saws, axes,	All present	Leaders should be competent and give young people information and training	
and knives) – risk of injuries		before they use sharp items.	
from mistakes or misuse.		Leaders should supervise young people and continue to assess their	
		competence. There should be at least one adult or Young Leader for each	
		group taking part.	
		Count out the sharp items and be clear on how many are being used. Then	
		count the sharp items back in to make sure they're all returned.	
		Keep items masked (have their blade covered) and stored safely between	
		uses.	_
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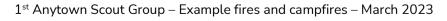
You can find more information in the Safety Checklist for Leaders and at scouts.org.uk/safety



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Risk of injury to non-		Create a safe cutting area (check guidance for safe size and distances).	
participants or observers.			
Fire , flames, sparks- risk of burns	All present	Leaders should supervise young people around the fire. There should be at least one adult or Young Leader with each group. Consider the most appropriate size of group in relation to the fire in use. Restrict access to the fire by using a defined area. Brief young people on the safe use of the equipment or fire before they use them and on the possible dangers of firelighting. Explain the rules for firelighting including: no picking up burning wood, no throwing objects onto the fire, - hold wood by one end and lower it onto the fire with your fingers near the ground. Do not add other items to the fire such as rubbish. To start a fire only use kindling or bought fire lighters. Do not use accelerants on the fire (any substance or mixture that accelerates or speeds the development and escalation of fire) – such as petrol, lighter fuel and other spirits. Appropriate footwear and clothing to be worn around fires. Avoid loose clothing - watch out for open coats, sleeves and scarves Tie back loose hair. No open toe shoes. Do not reach over fires or flames. Make sure there is an appropirate first aid kit available and that leader training is up to date. Make sure that cold water is available nearby – there should be at least a bucket, running water is best if possible.	
Fire – risk of uncontrolled spread of fire. Risk of environmental damage	All present	Leaders should make sure fire fighting equipment is available. Options include extinguishers, fire buckets, spades, and beaters. Fires to be located on specified surface, (eg camp fire circle) or well off the ground on a stable platform (eg altar fire on designated ground slab) Fires not be be located over damageable surfaces (eg tarmac or grass) Everyone should think about location of their fire. It shouldn't be near tents or directly under low trees that could be damaged. There should not be excess dry undergrowth or debris around it. Wind direction to be considered and allowed for. Size of fire to reflect location, fires should not be allowed to get too big for	

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		the situation – think about space, surrounding objects like fences and	
		buildings, number of people, time it will need to be safely extinguished.	
I		Fires never to be left unattended. After use fires to be left in a safe manner,	
		doused with water to prevent stray sparks.	
Behaviour – risk of	Young People	Everyone should follow the section code of conduct that sets clear	
overexcitement, especially at	Volunteers	expectations of behaviour.	
the start and end of the		YP briefed on their individual responsibility to behave safely around fires	
meeting.			
Pollutants from wood – risk	Young People	Only use natural wood for cooking. Avoid treated wood, such as some	
of ill health to participants.	Volunteers	pallets or old fencing and furniture.	
I		Check the wood from the wood pile before the meeting and decide whether	
		it's suitable.	
Smoke - inhalation leading	Young People	Leaders should supervise young people, and remind them to remove	
to breathing difficulties or	Volunteers	themselves from the smoke if wind direction changes.	
eye injury		Leaders to be aware of any individual medical needs (eg asthma) and ensure	
		any medication is at hand.	
Cooking around Fire – burns	Young People	Young People briefed on how to approach fire safely, not to wave sticks	
from hot food & implements	Volunteers	around, to give each other space – taking turns if necessary.	
Illness from under cooked		Young people briefed on safety around hot food, not to touch and allow to	
food, poor hygeine		cool before eating.	
	_	Use thick / heat resistant gloves where appropriate	
		Adults and Young Leaders to supervise at all times and help young people	
		where they need it.	
Individual needs –	Young People	Adaptations made to the activity to ensure all can access the fire. (eg ensure	
exclusion, injury, distress		adequate space for a wheelchair user to join a campfire circle)	

What other Hazards arising do you need to consider?

Never be afraid to stop and activity if it becoming unsafe!

This Risk Assessment does not cover activities (eg: games, free time, camping, contingency plans), which will each require their own. You may also need to consider any specific individual needs.

Check Activities A-Z to see if any need Permits or qualifications to run them.

There are Example risk assessments to use as a starting point

Don't forget, as part of your programme planning, you should have contingency activities in reserve just in case you can't do what was planned or you need to stop half way through. Make sure this is shared with those involved, so everyone knows how to respond. You should have risk assessed contingency activities prior to them taking place and communicated key information to those involved as with all activities.

