

Knife Skills Risk Assessment

Name of activity/ event/ location	Strategy & Evolution	Date of risk assessment	April 2024	Name of who undertook this risk assessment	Russ Burton
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Hazard Identified? / Risks from it?	Who is at risk?	How are the risks already controlled? What extra controls are needed?	What has changed that needs to be thought about and controlled?
<p><i>Hazard – something that may cause harm or damage.</i></p> <p><i>Risk – the chance of it happening.</i></p>	Young people, Leaders, Visitors?	<p>Controls – Ways of making the activity safer by removing or reducing the risk from it.</p> <p><i>For example - you might use a different piece of equipment or you might change the way the activity is carried out.</i></p>	Keep checking throughout the activity in case you need to change it...or even stop it! This is a great place to add comments which will be used as part of the review.
Rough wood – risk of splinters or blisters from handling	All present	Tell people to take care when cutting or snapping wood. Wear strong gloves if you have them – bear in mind that gloves may affect your grip.	
Behaviour or overexcitement – risk of injuries from mistakes or misuse	All present	<p>Have a section code of conduct to set clear expectations of behaviour.</p> <p>Instructors' commands are paramount. STOP command.</p> <p>Stress the importance of being responsible when using sharp tools.</p> <p>Give young people information and training before they use sharp items.</p> <p>Blood Bubble, Triangle of Death, elbows to knees.</p> <p>Supervise young people closely while they use sharp items.</p> <p>Continue to assess their competence. Have one adult or young leader for each group – consider the ratio depending on age and behaviour. One Instructor, Many eyes in support.</p> <p>Count out the sharp items and be clear on how many are being used. Count them back in to make sure they're all returned. Store appropriately.</p>	

Additional information can be found in the [Safety Checklist for Leaders](https://scouts.org.uk/safety) and other information at scouts.org.uk/safety

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<p>Struck by sharp tool – risk of injury to non-participants or observers</p>	<p>Young people and leaders</p>	<p>Create a safe cutting area; check guidance for safe size and distances. (Blood bubble- If any one is with the area STOP and SHEATH, ASK TO LEAVE) Don't wear scarves, ties, lanyards or any loose clothing or jewellery and tie back long hair to prevent knives from getting caught. Sheath/Cover the blade when you're not using it and place on the floor in front of you.</p>	
<p>Struck by tool – risk of injury to users</p>	<p>Young people and leaders</p>	<p>Inspect the tools before use. If the YP are to bring in their own check them for suitability and useability. Use an appropriate tool for the job....NO BATONING WITH OPINELS (for example). Don't use a blunt blade. Don't use a blade in poor light. Use chopping block below wood before you cut it if required, issue cutting boards of the session (plywood cut boards are ideal) Use a kneeling position so if you miss your material the blade won't follow through to your leg. When batoning ensure the blade is a fixed blade (NO FOLDERS) the surface is flat. Instructors demo the technique prior to the YP attempting. Stop using the knife if you feel tired.</p>	

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<p>Cuts – from sharing or moving tools</p>	<p>Everyone</p>	<p>Explain how to take a knife out of its sheath safely while keeping your fingers away from the blade.</p> <p>Carry the blade properly: it should be in your hand with your arm by your side, the bit Blade should face forward, and your fingers should be out of the way.</p> <p>Mask/sleeve the the blade before you carry it.</p> <p>If you need to pass the knife to someone else, stand side by side facing the same direction. Pass the knife correctly....as demonstrated..</p>	
<p>Knife work – risk of slips and cuts</p>	<p>Everyone</p>	<p>Explain knife law and safety before you begin.</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/buying-carrying-knives</p> <p>At the end of the session, collect and safely store any tools you've used.</p> <p>Have a suitable, safe storage. Use it to show everyone how to store tools and help them understand why.</p> <p>Demonstrate different cuts and safe techniques in tent peg demo.</p>	
<p>Injuries – first aid required</p>	<p>Everyone</p>	<p>Make sure there's a first aid kit and a first aider on hand.</p> <p>Practice treating and dressing cuts before you start a practical exercise.</p> <p>Any injury the session stops.</p> <p>Instruct the YP to indicate they have an injury, sheath, apply pressure to wound, elevate effected area. Treat the injury.</p>	

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