

RISK ASSESSMENT



CLIENT

EVENT DATE

VENUE

ACTIVITY **BUSHCRAFT in Schools, on-site activity, one off event or series**

ACTIVITY / TASK	RISK	High/Med /Low	MEASURES TAKEN
Shelter / bivi making			
	Sticks, poles and pegs being misused	MED	Inform the participants of the risks of misuse and that sticks and poles have two ends and are a resource not a weapon. Instructor to remain vigilant at all times.
	Hammering in pegs in an unsafe manner	MED	Demonstrate good posture and angle and the 'risk' area of the mallet. Instructor to remain vigilant at all times.
	Misuse of the lines and cords	MED	Inform the participants of the risks of misuse and that lines and cords are a resource and not a whip, tourniquet or bondage. Instructor to remain vigilant at all times.
	Misuse of the mallet	MED	Inform the participants of the risks of misuse and that the mallet, a tool, if misused, becomes a dangerous weapon. Instructor to remain vigilant at all times.
	Trip hazard and other injuries caused by walking or running into and over guyropes	MED	Inform the participants of the risks created by not being aware of where guys are and not to run or play around a shelter or bivi. Instructor to remain vigilant at all times.
Fire lighting with a fire steel			
	Flare up of tinder causing burns to the hands	LOW	Ensure that appropriate tinder and amount is used. Test first if in doubt
	Tinder setting fire to other things	MED	Ensure that the site has been well chosen and is free from light dusty and easily combustible material. Have water on site and easily accessible.
	Burns to fingers and hands	LOW	Ensure that correct materials are used and that striking is supervised on a 1:1 following an appropriate demonstration.
Fire lighting with a fire steel cont.	Others waiting their turn being disruptive or a distraction	MED	Explain to all participants that patience is required and work on a maximum of 1:8 ratio on this task. Instructor to remain vigilant at all times.
Use of Kelly Kettles			
	Collecting the firewood	LOW	Give the group a well defined working area and a time limit and signal to return



Use of Kelly Kettles cont...	Risk of being burnt or scalded by the fire pan or boiling water	MED	Safety zone to be clearly defined and monitored. Do not over fill the kettles. Instructors to remain vigilant at all times.
	Burns from lighting the fire	LOW	Give a good clear instruction and demonstration, monitor on a 1:1
	Risk of burns from feeding the fire	HIGH	Give a very clear demonstration of how it should be done. The kettle to be held by the instructor at all times during this task with the water spout at 90 degrees to the instructor and participant. Only allow feeding on a 1:1 basis. Instructor to remain vigilant at all times.
	Risk of burns and scalds from lifting the kettle off the fire pan	HIGH	ONLY TO BE DONE BY THE INSTRUCTOR. Lift the kettle from the pan using both hands on the bale handle either side of the kettle so that the handle remains at 90 degrees to the kettle and NEVER gets into the vertical position over the 'chimney' area. Instructor to remain vigilant at all times.
	Risk of burns and scalds from incorrect poring technique	HIGH	ONLY TO BE DONE BY THE INSTRUCTOR. After lifting the kettle from the fire pan using the technique above, transfer one hand to the top of the bale handle and the other to the chain. Pore by lifting the chain. Ensure that the group hold their mugs at arms length so that any spillages do not fall onto their feet or legs. Instructor to remain vigilant at all times.
Campfire cooking			
	Risk of being burnt or scalded by, or falling into, the fire	MED	Work in the circle with a clearly defined safety zone and only allow fuel feeding on a 1:1 basis. Instructor to remain vigilant at all times.
	Participants being disruptive or a distraction	LOW	Keep the group focused and engaged in a task or conversation.
	Participants being burnt or scalded whilst placing or removing a pot or pan	MED	Demonstrate best practice and provide heat and flame proof gloves to complete the task. Supervise on a 1:1 basis. Instructors to remain vigilant at all times.
	Participants tripping whilst moving around the circle	LOW	Ensure that the site is well chosen and demonstrate how to move around the outside of the circle and not the inside.
Use of a bow saw			
	Risk of damage and injury to fingers, hands and wrists	MED	Demonstrate clearly the best practice and technique of both single and multi- participant use. Thick leather gloves to be worn at all times. Activity to be monitored by an instructor at all times.
	Risk of injury caused by an un protected blade when not in use	LOW	If the saw is only temporarily out of use, then it is to be placed vertically on the ground whilst leaning against something so that the teeth are facing down. If left for any prolonged period the blade is to be wrapped or sheathed in some way and again left vertically as before.

Use of articulated loppers			
	Risk of injury from misuse of the equipment	LOW	Demonstrate best practice and keep under close supervision. Demonstrate problems with trying to use loppers when they should choose to use the saw for larger diameter wood.
	Risk of tripping over abandoned equipment	MED	Brief the users to store the loppers handle up, cutters down and leaning vertically against an object. Instructors to remain vigilant at all times.
Use of a Frost Mora or other fixed blade knife			
	General excitement and/or apprehension from being allowed to handle a fixed blade knife	HIGH	Inform the participants of the risks of misuse and that the knife is their most valuable tool and only becomes a weapon when it is misused. All knife use to be supervised on a 1:1 ratio. Instructor to remain vigilant at all times.
	Risk of injury from making general camp fire implements, feather sticks, bow drill and board sets, pegs etc	HIGH	Demonstrate best practice, safe working area, safe handling and how to pass, receive, and when to sheath a knife. Participants to wear thick leather gloves at all times. Tasks involving fixed blade knives to be supervised on a 1:1 ratio and removed from the group working area as soon as the activity is completed. Instructor to remain vigilant at all times.
Use of a small forest axe			
Not applicable on this programme			
Making of bramble bindings and nettle cordage			
	Risk of injury to hands from nettle stings and bramble thorns	HIGH	Participants to wear thick leather gloves whilst harvesting the materials.
	Risk of other participants being hurt during inappropriate behaviour with brambles and nettles whilst harvesting and preparing from other group members	MED	Inform the participants of the risks to others as a consequence of their inappropriate behaviour and misuse of the materials. Instructor to remain vigilant at all times.
General camp safety			
	Risk of injury from participating in the general activity of BUSHCRAFT	MED	Always use appropriately skilled, experienced and/or qualified staff, one of which is to be 16 hr First Aid qualified. A first aid kit to be on site at all times. When fire is part of the activity, always have a plunge bucket and wool blanket on site.

This document has been read and understood by the following staff working on the event:

Pete March Event Manager.....

Print name.....Signature.....

Print name.....Signature.....

Print name.....Signature.....

Print name.....Signature.....

Print name.....Signature.....

Print name.....Signature.....