

RISK ASSESSMENT: Backwoods Cooking

Completed by: Activities Management Team

Date: 18/12/2025

Review Date: 18/12/2026

What is the Hazard?	Who may be harmed?	How might people be harmed?	Risk Rating			Control Measures in Place	Remaining Risk		
			Probability	Severity	Risk		Probability	Severity	Risk
Slips, Trips and Falls	All	Cuts, grazes and bruises.	3	2	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All equipment not being used is put away in the store. All participants are instructed to wear appropriate footwear – must be close toed shoes. Participants warned about exposed tree roots and potential hazards. 	1	1	1
Exposure/ Hypothermia and Sunburn	All	Sunburn, high temperature and dehydration.	2	3	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff and participants must be wearing suitable clothing during the activity. Staff and participants to drink plenty of water. Sun cream to be applied when needed. Area is shaded in the woods, with the ability of erecting a tarpaulin overhead when/if necessary. 	1	2	2
Group Behaviour	All	Loss of control of the group, participants being distracted/ not listening.	3	3	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group leaders are to ensure that the group is under control at all times. Instructor is to stop the session if the participant's behaviour is dangerous. Instructor to check with group leader at the start of the session for any neurodiverse participant's and make sure control measures are in place to appropriately manage their needs. 	1	2	2
Burns From Fire or Sparks	All	Burns	3	2	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fire to be lit prior to the group's arrival. This enables the group to see how fire acts. When group is not using the fire, i.e. during briefing, they are positioned a safe distance away. Participants are advised to close eyes when smoke is blown in their direction. First Aider on site / Instructor to hold valid first aid certificate. First aid kit in plain sight of group. Participants may only add firewood to fire under supervision from the instructor. Clear safety brief to hazards of fire. 	1	2	2
Adverse Weather	All	See 'Exposure'	3	2	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to 'Adverse Weather' policy. Tarpaulin can be erected for shelter if necessary. 	2	2	4
Burns from the fire drum	All	Skin burns	3	2	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All parties are informed that the fire drum may be hot and not to touch it. 	2	2	4

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Fire Spreading out of Control	All	Burns	3	3	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spare firewood is stored a safe distance away from the fire. Fire to be kept to a reasonable size, not over-loaded with firewood. A bucket/ bottle of water is within the Backwoods Cooking area at all times (to be used to control fire only). Area is cleared of any fast-reacting tinder prior to building the fire. Fires are built within a metal drum situated 0.5m from floor level 	1	3	3
Cuts and Splinters	All	Cuts, splinters	2	2	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only instructor to use the whittling knife. When sharpening sticks, Instructor to do so away from others in the area and cut away from their body. Participants warned to take care when handling firewood in case of splinters. Jam knife to be a blunt kitchen knife, rather than a sharp knife. 	2	2	4
Equipment Failure	All	Cuts, Lacerations, Death	3	5	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All equipment is inspected periodically and anything faulty is removed from use immediately, recorded and repaired or replaced. All equipment is visually checked by the instructor prior to being used. Items deemed to be faulty are removed from use immediately, logged and placed in the quarantine bin. As per policy 5.3 faulty or damaged equipment. 	1	5	5
Human Error	All	Instructor complacency and loss of focus could put everyone at risk	3	3	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All instructors are trained and assessed by senior members of the activities team. All instructors are regularly monitored to ensure procedures are complied with. All instructors are aware of where Risk assessments and operating procedures are stored. Where possible, instructors to only work the same session twice in one day. Instructors made aware of any changes to activity. Refresher training given when necessary. 	1	3	3

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Burns from Hot Food	All	Burnt lips, tongue, mouth, blisters	3	2	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants reminded that food cooked from a fire is still hot. Instructed to allow food to cool before eating. Participants warned to take care whilst handling cooked food, to prevent splashes of fat or molten sugar. First Aid Kit with instructor at all times. 	1	2	2

Level	Likelihood Factor	Severity Description
1	Very Unlikely	Insignificant – No injury or No First Aid required.
2	Unlikely	Minor – Minor injuries requiring first aid such as cuts, grazes, bruising.
3	Fairly Likely	Moderate – Injuries resulting in up to three days' absence from work.
4	Likely	Major – Injuries resulting in a week or more absence from work, for example broken bones, deep cut etc.
5	Very Likely	Catastrophic – Amputations or Death.

Remaining Risk Level	Description
1-5	Very low, minimal risk, control measures more than adequate
5-10	Low, control measures satisfactory
10-15	Medium, control measures adequate
15-20	High, control measures need further consideration
20-25	Very high, intolerable, stop Job