

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

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			Probability	Severity	Risk			Probability	Severity	Risk
Burns from Fire or Food out of Control	All	Unlikely				Minor – Minor injuries requiring first aid such as cuts, grazes, bruising.	Participants warned to take care when handling cooked food, to prevent allow food to cool before eating.			
		Likely	3	2	6	Moderate – Injuries resulting in up to three days' absence from work.	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. Area is cleared of any fast-reaching timber prior to building the fire. Fires are built within a metal drum situated 0.5m from floor level	1	2	2
Cuts and Splinters	All	Likely				Major – Injuries resulting in a week or more absence from work, for example broken bones, deep cuts etc.	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.			
		Very Likely				Catastrophic – Amputations or Death	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	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						
Equipment Failure	All	15-20		High, control measures need further consideration						
		20-25		Very high, intolerable, Stop Job						
Human Error	All	Instructor complacency and loss of focus could put everyone at risk	3	3	9		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All instructors are trained and assessed by senior members of the activities team.</li> <li>All instructors are regularly monitored to ensure procedures are complied with.</li> <li>All instructors are aware of where Risk assessments and operating procedures are stored.</li> <li>Where possible, instructors to only work the same session twice in one day.</li> <li>Instructors made aware of any changes to activity.</li> <li>Refresher training given when necessary.</li> </ul>	1	3	3