

Risk assessment for forest schools at Outreach

Human hazard

Hazard type	Who may be harmed	Is the risk adequately controlled
All hazards	All Participants and Staff	Appropriately trained S.O.L.D. staff to facilitate ensuring supervision of participants. All participants to be briefed clearly on task and how to safely use any tools required to achieve the task. First Aid Kit available. A final check by duty worker must take place before activity starts.
Falling/slipping	All Participants and Staff	Safety brief before each task. Staff to check area prior to session and remove any tripping / slipping hazards present. Brief participants of potential dangers - uneven ground, rabbit holes etc.
Cuts to hands from using tools (Bow Saw, Frost Knife, Loppers, Bill Hook, Hand Axe)	All Participants	All participants to be briefed clearly on the tool being used and the recommended safe working area. Appropriately trained staff to facilitate task. PPE issued where appropriate.
Burns from fire lighting activities.	All Participants and Staff	Trained staff to brief groups on safe fire lighting techniques and rules of fire circle. Observe safety margins within the fire circle. Provide fireproof gloves for handling cook pots on fire. Fire Bucket on site as well as a burns kit and first aid kit. Fire must be supervised at all times and extinguished after use.
Incorrect use, cuts, pinched fingers	All Participants and Staff	All participants to be briefed clearly on the safe and appropriate use of the secateurs, how to carry them and where to store them when not in use as well as the recommended safe working area. Appropriately trained staff to facilitate task. PPE issued.

Environmental Hazard

Hazard type	Who may be harmed	Is the risk adequately controlled
Face eye and body injuries from vegetation	All Participants and Staff	Group briefed prior to activity, full body covering when moving through vegetation or use the paths only. Warn participants about branches & stems hazards. Ensure clients with asthma or any allergic reactions are known an appropriate medication is carried.
Poisoning	All Participants and Staff	Safety brief before each task. Staff to check area prior to session and remove any tripping / slipping hazards present. Brief participants of potential dangers - uneven ground, rabbit holes etc.
Log Piles	All Participants and Staff	Brief group about where to find wood for fire lighting activities and for non-fire lighting activities. DO NOT climb on log piles.
Log Piles outside of area	All Participants	Brief Group. No climbing on logs. Respect environment/habitat piles - DO NOT tamper with them.
Fire burning out of control	All Participants and Staff	Size of fire appropriate to activity. Fires in designated areas only. Water bucket ready for use.
Extreme Weather	All Participants and Staff	Ensure all participants are wearing appropriate clothing and protection from the weather. Check detailed weather forecast before commencing activity and adjust programme if necessary.
Collision with objects while blind folded	All Participants	Ensure sighted participants within the group. Closely supervise the group.

Equipment hazard

Hazard type	Who may be harmed	Is the risk adequately controlled
Equipment failure	All Participants and Staff	Equipment maintained and checked prior to each usage by appropriately trained FS staff. Equipment to be checked following use and accounted for. Any faulty or lost item reported immediately to Duty worker.