

## Fire Skills Risk Assessment

<b>Assessment carried out by:</b> Natalie Gafford	<b>Date:</b> 21/06/21
<b>Signature:</b> NG	

**Experience / Activity:** Fire Skills

- 1) Bush Craft Leader to ensure a fire blanket, a bucket full of water and watering can are close at hand to extinguish fire and to plunge burnt skin.
- 2) Bush Craft instructor to take first aid kit, telephone and emergency contact details to any fire skills exercise.
- 3) Children under the age of three years are NOT permitted to join in with any fire cooking activities.
- 4) Fire activities MUST be supervised by a level three qualified Forest School Leader under a 1:8 ratio. For cooking activities apply a ratio of 1:4 for under 8's.
- 5) Minimum age for fire lighting is 6 years and MUST be completed on a 1:4 ratio.
- 6) Seating in the fire circle must be at least one metre from the fire and any person not engaged in an activity must be seated on a log or outside of this area.
- 7) All children to receive a fire safety briefing before engaging in fire skills activities.
- 8) Staff to ensure that any child diagnosed with Asthma has their inhaler close to hand and a first aid trained member of staff is available to support administration should this be required. Staff to remain vigilant and observe for any signs of breathing difficulties following instruction from their first aid training and emergency procedure for medical incidents. Additionally, children with Asthma or breathing difficulties will be asked to let staff know if they feel any shortness of breath or tightness in their chest. All activities are optional and children are free to choose to move to a space further away from the fire.
- 9) BushCraft Instructor to ensure all fires are extinguished.

Activity/Experience	Risk	Risk Level	Control Actions	New level
<i>General fire activities</i>	Children's and adults clothing and hair may be extremely flammable, this could catch light causing serious injury.	High	The forest school leader must complete a fire safety briefing before the start of each session, ensuring children tie hair back and secure loose clothing.	<i>Medium</i>
	Trips, falls into the fire, causing severe burns.	High	Forest School Leader to perform a risk assessment of the location of the fire, to ensure the ground is even and has no trip hazards such as holes or roots, sticks, stones etc.	<i>Low</i>
	In warm weather dry ground, fern, trees, can catch fire, causing forest fire etc	High	No fires to be lit when we have had an extended period of dry weather, when there is a weather warning, or in areas we do not have permission to light a fire. No fires to be lit on common land.	<i>Low</i>
<b>Covid risk assessment</b>	<b>Covid – 19 is a highly contagious virus prevalent in the UK with</b>		<b>Please see Area risk assessment for general</b>	<b>Medium</b>

	<p>devastating short- and long-term effects to the health and wellbeing of millions of people. This is particularly concerning for vulnerable children and adults, as well as the elderly. Nevertheless, this poses risk to all children, adults and families that participate in group activities. For health and safety reasons fire work and cookery often require children and staff to work in close proximity, meaning social distancing measures will not be possible during some of this work and transmission would be a higher risk than during activities where social distancing measures can be maintained.</p>		<p>covid risk assessment. Wherever, possible, reasonably practicable and safe to do so, staff will practice social distancing from children during the duration of the club. For any activities where it would be unsafe to practice social distancing additional safety measures will be put in place; during any activity that requires tool use, children and staff will be required to wash their hands prior to starting their activity, before consuming any goods cooked on the fire and to generally practice good hygiene skills. Activities that require close working will be reduced in frequency and staff will wear a face covering. All close contact activities will be outdoors only. All tools will be cleaned at the beginning and at the end of the session, after the bubble has used them. Portable hand washing facilities will be available for children and adults to use at all times.</p>	
--	--	--	--	--

**Fire safety briefing to include;** Instruction for children to remain seated in the fire circle or outside of the fire circle unless invited by a teacher (instruction may be completed through games practicing moving safely around the outside of a fire circle or simple verbal instruction, depending on the age and understanding of the group). Children will be instructed not to throw or drop anything into the fire. Children may place sticks or logs into the fire only under the agreement of the bush craft instructor and with the use of fire gloves. Children are not permitted to remove anything from the fire. For all cooking activities children will be shown the safe stance for cooking which is kneeling on one knee with the second raised to offer a secure stance from which they can move out of harm swiftly and safely. Any fire lighting activities must be supervised with the above stipulated ratios and the Bush Craft instructor must check the site prior to lighting to ensure the appropriate safety kit is readily available, that the space is safe to use including a clear ground and canopy area (to prevent tripping, slipping and catching light to trees etc).