Wiltshire Scout Centre

Campfires and Outdoor Cooking Risk Assessment

Scope

This risk assessment covers use of **campfires, altar fires and small outdoor cooking fires used on site**.

Applies To

- Internal volunteers
- Scout group or district hirers
- External hirers
- Visitors using the outdoor areas

Who May Be Harmed

Young people, adults and members of the public.

Important Notes

Individuals using these areas remain responsible for **risk assessing their own activities, equipment, supervision arrangements, and managing the safety of activities they organise**.

Fires should only be lit in **approved locations and under suitable supervision**.

Date of risk assessment	**15th June 2026**	**Date of next review**	**8th March 2027**	**Name of assessor**	**D Bavister**

What could go wrong? What hazard have you identified?	**What is the risk?** What are the risks from it?	**Who is at risk?**	**What are you going to do about it?** How are the risks already controlled? What extra controls are needed? How will they be communicated to young people and adults and remain inclusive to all needs?	**Review & revise** What has changed that needs to be thought about and controlled?
Open fires	Burns from flames or hot surfaces	All	Fires only lit in approved locations and supervised appropriately.	Reinforce safe fire practice guidance.
Fire spreading beyond intended area	Fire spreading to surrounding vegetation or equipment	All	Fires kept contained and monitored. Water or extinguishing methods available nearby.	Review fire locations if needed.
Smoke from fires	Smoke inhalation or irritation	All	Fires located away from enclosed spaces and located in approved locations.	Monitor wind direction where practical.

You can find more information in the Safety checklist for Section Volunteers and at scouts.org.uk/safety

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Scouts

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Trips around fire areas	Falls resulting in contact with fire	All	Clear space maintained around fires.	Maintain safe fire circle areas.
Carrying or moving firewood	Strains or lifting injuries	Adults	Firewood lifted carefully and shared where necessary.	Encourage safe lifting practices.
Preparing or splitting wood	Injury from tools or debris	Adults	Wood preparation using tools undertaken by individuals experienced in their safe use.	Provide guidance where appropriate.
Stacked firewood	Falling logs causing injury	All	Firewood stored in stable stacks.	Maintain safe storage areas.
Carbon monoxide from fires, stoves or cooking equipment	Inhalation of carbon monoxide causing illness, unconsciousness or death	All	Fires and cooking equipment used in open-air locations only. No fires, BBQs, stoves or fuel-burning equipment permitted inside buildings, tents, shelters or enclosed structures. Activity leaders supervise use of equipment. Users instructed on safe operation and ventilation requirements.	Review following incidents or changes to site rules

Don't forget, as part of your programme planning, you should have contingency activities in reserve just in case you can't do what was planned or you need to stop half way through. Make sure this is shared with those involved, so everyone knows how to respond. You should have risk assessed contingency activities prior to them taking place and communicated key information to those involved as with all activities.