Campfire Session Risk assessment

Activity: Campfire

What are the hazards? Timber, Tree roots, Branches, etc.
Bracken, Sweet chestnuts, Pine cones
Nettles
Weather
Fire
Tools – predominantly knives and saws

Who is at risk? Staff, participants and members of the public.

What are the risks?	Existing safety measures/controls	Likelihood	Risk Rating
Being hit on the head by timber, due to a dangerous carrying technique. Suffering eye damage from branches or twigs carried at eye level	Participants should be instructed to only pick up small sticks and no large logs will be allowed on the fire never carry timber above shoulder height and care taken when turning with the wood in order to prevent contact with other people At all times Participants are required to take a general care in their actions and this is monitored by the group leader and instructors.	L	L
Tripping over and falling	Group told not to run in wooded area or near the fire circle and to watch out for slippery logs especially in wet weather All areas maintained to acceptable conditions for the activity in question Instructors and participants should wear appropriate footwear i.e. trainers Instructors to hand out torches to group Groups are recommended to bring torches Group set clear boundaries of where they can/can't go. Make them aware of other nearby hazards such as the lake.	L	L
Fire – spreading / setting light to the peat under ground	Fires only to be lit in appropriate situations; i.e. on a clear site with no overhanging trees and either in a fire pit or raised off the ground An adequate supply of water and a fire blanket to be on session at all times Fire to be extinguished before leaving the site unless group are staying longer and agree to take responsibility for it.	L	L
Scalding/burns by fire/hot food	Area immediately around a fire should not be walked through; only individuals tending the fire should be in close proximity If necessary a 'restricted' area will be physically marked out	L	L

What are the risks?	Existing safety measures/controls	Likelihood	Risk Rating
	Instructor to make participants aware of safe fire lighting techniques and the effect of wind direction, etc. Instructor to judge whether handling of hot items is appropriate by group, if necessary Instructors Should cook the marshmallows Oven gloves can provided		
Food poisoning and germs contracted from unclean hands and food preparation	Make sure all of the group wash and disinfect their hands before participating in any cooking or eating activities Ensure all participants wash their hands at the end of the session	L	M
An instructor being unable to recognise ANY of the hazards discussed in the General Risk Assessment due to the lack of light (including medical problems, injury and separation)	Maintain a regular check on the group through head-counts both visually (where possible) and through a "roll call" (e.g. assign each member of the group a number at the start of the session and have them call them out in order on command) The instructor should be familiar with the route and any hazards that may be presented Encourage group members to "watch out" for each other – e.g. advise each other of potential hazards and let staff member know if an individual shows signs of distress or illness	L	L
Excessive stress due to fear of the dark	Respect the participants' fears and encourage them to face them while reassuring them **DO NOT** force an individual to participate in an activity they do not wish to. **DO NOT** deliberately scare participants Torch to be carried	L	L
Injuries deteriorating because the first aider is not able to see what they are doing because it's too dark	Torch is to be carried within the group on all sessions On call staff available to support if needed. Instructors will be first aid trained.	L	L
The member of staff on call unaware of the Campfire and in the event of an emergency no member of staff monitoring the radio and therefore	ALWAYS ensure that the staff member on call is aware of the Campfire and that they will be monitoring the radio Give an expected time of finishing the session and radio the member of staff on call at the start and on completion of the activity Personal mobile phone recommended to be carried in case of radio communication breakdown.	L	L

What are the risks?	Existing safety measures/controls	Likelihood	Risk Rating
no assistance being available			
Falling in the lake	Maintain good discipline and ensure that the group is aware of the potential risks of poor behaviour Where groups lack suitable discipline avoid the lakes completely. Throw line to be carried when operating around the lake	L	L

Reference to other manuals assessments:
Avon Tyrrell reference and training folder
UK Youth Health and Safety policy

Reviewed June 2019 by Chief Instructor
Approved by Director of Avon Tyrrell & Operations
Next review June 2020