

Risk assessment – Firework night with bonfire

Name of activity, event, and location	1 st Anytown Scout Group – firework night with bonfire	Date of risk assessment	24 April 2023	Name of person doing this risk assessment	A Leader
		Date of next review	24 Oct 2024 (ahead of next firework event)		

What could go wrong? What hazard have you identified? 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?
<p>A hazard is something that may cause harm or damage.</p> <p>The risk is the harm that may occur from the hazard.</p>	For example: young people, adult volunteers, visitors	<p>Controls are ways of making the activity safer by removing or reducing the risk. For example, you may use a different piece of equipment or you might change the way you do the activity.</p>	Keep checking throughout the activity in case you need to change what you're doing or even stop the activity. This is a great place to add comments which will be used as part of the review.

Brief description of the activity

- A controlled firework display from the field next to the HQ for members
- A managed bonfire, outside of the garden area used by spectators
- Food prepared and distributed within the HQ garden area
- Safety and marshalling managed by members of the Leader / Executive committee team

GENERAL

Useful tips on running a safe event at <https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/staying-safe-and-safeguarding/safety/event-safety-and-planning/planning-safe-activities/firework-safety/>

Access / egress – risk of uninvited guests attending, overcrowding	All present	Access gates to be closed and leader positioned near entrance to stop anyone who is not permitted to be present from entering.	
Rough ground / uneven floor surface - Slips / trips / falls	All present	Leaders to check the ground prior to the event (during daylight hours) and identify any high risk spots and consider barriers. All to bring torches Flood lights / torches to be turned on when group moving before / after fireworks	
Confusion of responsibility – essential safety tasks not completed	All present	Break down areas of tasks and appoint individuals to specific roles – all reporting back to the agreed leader in charge for oversight.	Leader in charge to confirm roles.

You can find more information in the Safety Checklist for Leaders and at [scouts.org.uk/safety](https://www.scouts.org.uk/safety)

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<p>General obstructions (equipment and other items) – risk of injuries to participants or leaders setting up, moving, or removing items.</p>	<p>Young people and leaders</p>	<p>Set up to be completed by selected crew prior to majority of participants arriving at event. Leaders should oversee setting up any equipment used for the activity and moving to where it is needed, especially on uneven ground outdoors. No one should carry larger or awkward items on their own Manual handling advice available via poster displayed</p>	<p>Team of leaders meeting 2 hours before event opens to put food tables and firework stands in place</p>
<p>BONFIRE</p>			
<p>Rough wood and timber – risk of splinters or blisters from handling. Injuries from nails or staples in hands. Injuries to feet from standing on nails embedded in wood in the wood pile</p>	<p>Bonfire leader & any helpers (leaders)</p>	<p>Bonfire leader and crew appointed Take care when handling, cutting or snapping wood. Participants provided with strong gloves Care must be taken when standing on wood and strong foot wear to be worn. Wood pile not to be climbed on.</p>	<p>Bonfire to be set up 2 hours before event – ensuring safe ground and clear of vulnerable wildlife.</p>
<p>Axe and saw – risk of injury to bonfire leader and non-participants or observers.</p>	<p>Bonfire leader</p>	<p>Competent person to be responsible for cutting / splitting of wood Pre-cut a supply of wood prior to the event Create a safe cutting area. Bonfire area at least 10m from visitors and cordoned off.</p>	
<p>Fire – risk of burns from mistakes or misuse.</p>	<p>Bonfire leader</p>	<p>Build fire in area safely away from participants – cordoned off (but visible for enjoyment) Wind direction to be considered and allowed for. Size of fire to reflect location, fires should not be allowed to get too big for the situation – think about space, surrounding objects like fences and buildings, number of people, time it will need to be safely extinguished. Extremely experienced leader setting up and managing the bonfire. Fire lit using kindling and proprietary fire lighters. No use of accelerants on the fire (any substance or mixture that accelerates or speeds the development and escalation of fire) – such as petrol, lighter fuel and other spirits. No additional items added, such as rubbish. Avoid loose clothing around fires – watch out for open coats, sleeves and scarves. Tuck them in and keep coats, hoodies fastened. Tie back loose hair. Do not reach over fires or flames. Appropriate first aid kit available and designated first aider.</p>	

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What other Hazards arising do you need to consider?

Never be afraid to stop an activity if it is becoming unsafe!

This Risk Assessment does not cover activities (eg: games, free time, open fires, outings, contingency plans), which will each require their own. You may also need to consider any specific individual needs.

Check [Activities A-Z](#) to see if any need Permits or qualifications to run them.

There are [Example risk assessments](#) to use as a starting point

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.

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