2nd Goring and Streatley Scout Group Risk Assessment

Assessor and Position:

Date Assessed:

## Knives, Axes, and Saw Risk Assessment

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| **Significant Hazards and Associated Risks** | **Those who might be harmed** | **Control Measures**  |
| **Struck by tool** – risk of injury to users | Members and leaders | * Inspect the axe before use. Never use it if the head and handle do not line up or if the head is loose.
* Do not use a blunt axe.
* Do not use an axe in poor light.
* Put a chopping block below wood before you cut it.
* Use a kneeling position so if you miss your material the axe will not follow through to your leg.
* If you are splitting wood, use another stick to hold it up so you can keep your fingers away from the area being cut.
* Stop using the axe if you feel tired.
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| **Cuts** – from sharing or moving tools | Everyone | * Explain how to take a knife out of its sheath safely while keeping your fingers away from the blade.
* Carry the axe properly; it should be in your hand with your arm by your side, the axe bit should face forward, and your fingers should be out of the way.
* Mask the axe (cover the blade) before you carry it.
* If you need to pass the axe to someone else, stand side by side facing the same direction. Pass the head of the axe first.
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| **Knife work –** risk ofslips and cuts | Everyone | * Practice your own knife skills before you begin any practical sessions with your section.
* Explain knife law and safety before you begin.
* At the end of the session, collect and safely store any tools you have used.
* Have a suitable, safe storage. Use it to show everyone how to store tools and help them understand why.
* Start with a small knife (such as a Swiss Army Knife) and complete small tasks. Build up to a larger blade as people become more confident and dexterous.
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| **Injuries** – first aid required | Everyone | * Make sure that there is a first aid kit and a first aider on hand.
* Practice treating and dressing cuts before you start a practical exercise.
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