

Risk Assessment – Campfire

Baseline ✗	Site Specific	Vulnerable Person	Temporary	Version	03/10/23	Date of issue:	03/10/2023
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Operating Notes:

- Supervision ratio is 1 instructor to 30 participants. There is no requirement for an additional adult.
- Fires must be lit in designated fire pits away from buildings, flammable materials or other flammable structures.
- Maximum occupancies at each campfire are to be noted on the Site Specific Risk Assessment to prevent overcrowding
Sand or water buckets must be available to control the size or spread of the fire if needed.

Risk – Benefit Statement: There is a very low risk of burns for both leaders tending the fire and participants observing. Attending a campfire allows participants to connect with each other and the natural environment, and introduces personal management of risk, making the risk of harm tolerable.

Hazard Description and activities giving rise to risk	Who may be harmed	Control Measures	Risk Rating
Burns – Lighting and tending to the fire	Activity Leaders	Do not use petrol or other flammable liquids for lighting fires. Only give the fire the attention it needs to keep going – Don't keep playing with it, don't show off. Do not allow the fire to get too high. Logs should be shorter than the distance between the nearest spectator and the edge of the fire pit. Do not put fresh/green wood on the fire – it is likely to spit. Tell participants not to get too close to the fire (1.5 metres away from the fire unless toasting/cooking on the fire. Fire to be 4 metres away from tents). Define a line that they must not cross. Take a knee when cooking on the fire and not to stand. Tell participants to respect each other's space (respect space) around the fire.	Very Low
Burns – Ejected sparks and embers	All	Do not disturb the fire if it's windy – you are more likely to send ash/embers into the air. Only allow participants to cook if you are sure their behaviour is safe. Only allow cooking once the fire has stabilized. Cook over embers rather than flames.	Low
Burns – Cooking marshmallows, popcorn, etc.	Participants	Position participants so you can see them all while they are cooking. Warn participants that food will be hot (particularly marshmallows!) Leave the fire safe at the end of the activity.	Low
Fire spreading – Uncontrolled or unattended fires causing damage to buildings, trees, etc.	All	Use sand or water to extinguish or reduce the fire if it is too big at the end of the activity. Clear unused wood, etc. from around the fire before you leave. Do not leave fire lighting materials (matches, lighters, briquettes, etc.) unattended at the fire pit. Place them in secure storage away from flammable materials.	Very Low
First Aid emergencies – Dealing with burns	All	Ensure you have a torch easily and quickly available if the activity takes place at night. Take casualties who suffer burns to cold running water as quickly as possible.	Very Low