Risk Assessment – Bow Saw, pruning saw, hacksaw

To be read in conjunction with other risk generic assessments i.e. General Welfare and Weather, Daily/ Site Specific and emergency site information.

Risk Benefit: What is the benefit to the children of offering this experience? Supervised activity using these tools allows participants to understand correct use of tools. Helps boost confidence and self-assurance. Encourages participants to have belief in their practical ability. Teaches new practical skills. Encourages use of different muscles and physical control in a physical activity Encourages participants to take responsibility for their own and each other's health and wellbeing by following safety precautions.				
Probability Score: 1. <5% chance that it will occur – very unlikely 2. 25% chance that it will occur 3. 50% chance that it will occur 4. 75% chance that it will occur 5. >95% chance that it will occur – very likely	**Severity Score** 1. Not serious – no first aid required 2. Minor Injury – requiring basic first aid 3. Injury – requiring non immediate professional medical attention 4. Serious injury/multiple injuries – requiring immediate medical attention 5. Major accident – multiple injuries or fatality		**Calculate the risk levels:** The rating is calculated from the probability multiplied by the severity which will give a rating between 1 & 25. Our Forest School will not be carrying out any activities deemed to have a revised rating of over 12 as they are deemed too dangerous	
Hazard	**Who is at risk and from what?**	**Risk Rating (Probability x Severity =)**	**Control measures to reduce the risk and actioned by whom?**	**Revised Risk Rating (Probability x Severity =)**
<u>Accident/ Illness-</u>	may suffer accident, illness requires treatment etc.	4x4=16	• Induction and reminder health and safety talks given to emergency situation to new staff, volunteers and participants • Up to date first aid kit on site	1x2=2

			• Appropriate no. of first aid trained staff and volunteers on site during sessions • Staff Ratio 1:6 • Accident book for incident recording on site • Emergency site information sheet available to direct emergency services to site • Charged mobile phone/s available and emergency site information form available to show directions to nearest main lines phone.	
<u>Storage of tool and equipment-</u> • returning of equipment to its storage facility or the FS Vehicle.	May suffer from falling items	2x2=4	• Storage of tools and equipment in suitable, safe containers • Containers and tools will be secured with bungee cords in transit • FS leader will lead and monitor unloading	1x2=2
<u>Moving tools and equipment to site-</u>	may suffer from trips or falls or other injuries due to incorrect carrying technique	2x3=6	• Warning to take more care given when ground is wet or slippery	1x2=2

Lack of maintenance-	may suffer injuries from broken parts or unsafe technique of use.	2x3=6	• Check all tools before use • Ensure tools are correctly maintained, including cleaning and sharpening • Clean and dry tools after use • Store damaged tools separately	1x3=3
Incorrect tool use-	may suffer injury from incorrect tool use	2x4=8	• Saw only to be used in Tool Area with supervision • Instructions in correct tool use given to all staff, volunteers and participants including stance,ie standing at Saw Horse. • If kneeling then on one knee when sawing, positioning of body to tool (always side on to it),distance from other people to be an arm's length. • When using saw all parts of the participants body must be out of the travel line of the saw	1x3=3

			• Instructions on how to work in teams to use bow saw will be given and demonstrated before activity • Supervision by FS leader and other responsible adults • Staff ratio 1:1 • Bow saws to have their guards put back on as soon as they are not being used and to be returned to their container if not being used even for a short period of time • Glove on the non dominant hand	
<u>Trips, Slips, Falls-</u>	are at risk from tripping over objects	2x2=4	• Make participants aware of trip hazards, uneven ground and muddy sloped • Prior Information sent to participants suggesting they wear sturdy outdoor footwear with a firm grip • Trip hazards and slippery surfaces mentioned in safety discussion can be made particularly important when carrying and using heavy or sharp tools.	1x2=2

			• FS leader should monitor ground conditions and fill out daily site check sheet before each session	
Poor Behaviour	Cuts or lacerations, severe bleeding which could be potentially fatal	5x5=25	• If staff are concerned that the behaviour is compromising the safety of their session they must immediately stop all tool work. • Tool work will only be taught to participants who are age and stage appropriate. Staff need to dynamically risk assess and decide whether participants are in the right frame of mind or not on any given day.	2x5=10

Date : 3/10/2026 Signed by: Liz Cooke