

Additional Risk Assessment for Basic Firelighting Activity

**Copsegrove
Farm
School**

Teams of 5 children.

When 1 team is on activity, 1 adult present.

When 2 teams on activity, 2 adults to be present.

Ration of 1:5 adult:children.

Main risk: burns, forest fire

RISKS OF ABOVE ARE MINIMISED by procedures outlined in session plan below:

The session will involve: an opportunity to use a flint to ignite a piece of cotton wool, the safe laying and igniting of a fire as a team.

- 1) A discussion of the importance of fire to humans from a historical point of view.**
- 2) A discussion of the fire triangle: energy required for ignition, fuel to burn, and oxygen in the air.**
- 3) Introduction to a flint. What it is, and how it works ...demonstration by adult.**

- 4) How to build a safe fire pit using 4 boundary logs surrounding a cleared area of ground. Children to construct with adult help.**
- 5) Safety rules around fire pit area discussed: children on knees to provide stable base, children to be sat outside boundary logs and so that wind is blowing from behind them, no leaning over fire pit area. Any long hair tied back and out of the way. Check clothing for any loose sleeves or dangling items.**
- 6) Once all above safety procedures checked carefully by adult, demonstration of flint to ignite a piece of cotton wool in fire pit.**
- 7) Children to then have a go themselves within fire pit area. One adult to supervise 1 child using flint. A maximum of 2 children using flints at any one time. Cotton wool to be put out by using an overturned beaker, to demonstrate the extinguishing effect of the removal of oxygen.**
- 8) A discussion of available fuel in the woods. Kindling, thinner than a pencil, as thin as your little finger, as thick as your thumb etc. Demonstration of how to lay a fire. Fire lit by adult, and then extinguished.**
- 9) Children to then prepare their own fire pit area, by clearing the ground, finding 4 boundary logs, collecting sticks of different thicknesses as shown.**
- 10) Children then to lay their fire with help of adult. Safety check (knees, outside boundary logs, downwind, no leaning, hair, clothing checks) before adult lights fire.**
- 11) Children to cook marshmallows on their fire. Skewers provided. Children warned about hot marshmallows and the need to blow on them before eating them.**

12) Fire to be safely extinguished by adult.

Safety rules will be explained at the beginning of the session to the children, and reinforced throughout.

A safety check will be carried out each time anything is lit.

A bucket of cold water will be present next to the fire pit area.

A fire blanket in the event of an emergency will be present by the fire pit area at all times.

SAFETY CHECK BEFORE ANY IGNITION OF ANY FIRES:

- 1) Are children all outside the boundary logs?**
- 2) Are children all in a stable position on their knees?**
- 3) Are all children sat so the wind is coming from behind them?**
- 4) Is all hair tied up and out of the way?**
- 5) Is there any loose clothing that may cause a hazard?**
- 6) BUCKET OF WATER/ FIRE BLANKET readily available?**