



Normal Operating Procedure (inc. Risk Assessment) Bushcraft

For leader led delivery this document should be read in conjunction with PGL's Teacher led resources and when reading this document substitute 'Instructor' with 'Teacher'.

Risk Profile

The following risks have been identified through PGL's risk assessment process:

- a. Equipment failure including collapse of shelters/structures.
- b. Extreme weather.
- c. Entrapment of hair, fingers, loose clothing & jewellery, entanglement in ropes.
- d. Slips/trips/falls – including wet/uneven ground and steps.
- e. Injury from participation/physical exertion.
- f. Fatigue/exhaustion/dehydration.
- g. Injury from manual handling.
- h. Injury from misuse of equipment or use of broken equipment.
- i. Injuries from sharp objects.
- j. Splinters & rope burns.
- k. Burns from fire.
- l. Injury from nearby vegetation or animals.
- m. Emotional distress and physical reactions to smells in some elements.
- n. Contaminated water.
- o. Ingestion of sanitizing/cleaning chemicals.

Implementation of the following operating procedures reduces the residual risk to a level as low as reasonably practicable given the intended purpose of the activity.

Control Measures

Deployment Requirements

Instructor Qualifications:	Centre based Training and Assessment by a competent person. Leader led complying with 'Leader Led Resource' document.
Instructor – Participant ratio:	1:15
Total group size:	15
Active participation:	1:15



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1. Equipment Requirements

Per Instructor:

- 1 x instructor knife (if applicable)
- 1 x pair of Cut5 Protecta Plus gloves (if applicable)
- Survivor manual

Per Activity Base:

- Paracord
- 6 x tarpaulin sheets
- 10 x lengths of rope
- A collection of larger branches & logs
- 6 x water containers (with water)

2. Specific Clothing Requirements (instructor & participant)

- Sturdy footwear
- Long hair tied back

3. Session Preparation

- a. Both the party leader and a senior member of staff are to be consulted as to whether the group are allowed to light fires.
- b. The instructor must check the area to be used for the session. Different types of venue require different equipment needs:
 - i. Beach: firewood & other wood for pokers.
 - ii. Field: firewood, sticks to make poles for shelter, water source.
 - iii. Forest: firewood, trees for suspending shelters, water source.
- c. Tinder tins must be stocked correctly.

4. Session Instruction

- a. An introduction/scenario game should be used to introduce the activity and to allow the instructor to start judging suitability/maturity of the participants (examples in ACOP). This can be delivered when travelling or at base.
- b. The safety briefing must include:
 - i. Area boundaries.
 - ii. Expected behaviour, with specific reference to knives, fire, and sticks.
 - iii. Carrying techniques.
 - iv. Manual handling techniques if participants are carrying objects.
 - v. Other site-specific rules.
- c. The instructor must ensure guests are supervised throughout the session and that they understand the area boundaries.
- d. The instructor must check any shelter built by participants to ensure they won't collapse during the session.

5. Session Conclusion

- a. Tinder boxes must be re-stocked and knives sharpened when returned to stores.
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