

Embercombe Risk Assessment

Campfires (includes cooking)

Description of main hazards and hazardous events:

Uneven ground or trip hazards placed around the fire cause people to fall onto the fire causing burning of the skin, hair or clothing. The hazard that a fire presents is greatly increased if there are children around the fire. The hazard that a fire presents is also greatly increased if food or water is being heated on a fire.

Burning injuries may occur without falling into the fire. Objects placed on or near the fire will become hot and if removed from the fire will remain hot.

Wood smoke can contain various substances that are harmful to health and prolonged exposure could cause significant harm.

Campfires are a hazard to the environment and wildlife. There is a risk that the surrounding foliage can ignite. Campfires may also ignite or damage underground tree roots and therefore, by damaging the health of trees create further hazards.

Cooking: Handling wood, cuts or splinters on hands. Infections. Cooking using basic facilities, infection or illness due to poor hygiene. Burns to the skin, contact with hot water, food or fire. Illness due to food poisoning.

Persons exposed: Employees Volunteers Clients / Public
Contractors Vulnerable groups

Existing controls:

Campfires should only be lit in established fire pits. The campfire area should be well organised and free from unnecessary objects that may be trip hazards. This is especially important if light levels are poor. Combustible materials should be stored well away from the fire. Ground litter should be cleared from the area around the fire. Children under the age of 13 should be supervised at all times.

A water bucket is provided for each campfire. Burn kits are available in each first aid kit. People are instructed to walk behind other people when moving around rather than step over people and the fire pit.

Cooking: Gloves are available for handling hot items. Fire pits and cooking equipment must provide a stable place for pans. Tripods can be used. Food temperature should be checked by facilitators before serving. Hot food or water should be handled with extreme care.

Are there any further controls recommended?

Some of the fire pits still have log surrounds. They are combustible and often smoulder giving off excessive smoke. They should be removed or replaced with stone.

There needs to be an explicit policy about children around campfires.

Summary of Safety Advice

There is a greater risk of campfires spreading during or after periods of dry weather.

Do not leave a campfire alone.

Each campfire should have a water bucket.

If a campfire becomes out of control follow the fire procedure

Children should be closely supervised at all times around campfires.

If cooking, fire pits must be set up so that food and water are stable.

If cooking, facilities to wash hands need to be provided.

Other risk assessments you should read; [General Site](#)

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Job title: Site Manager

Signed:



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