



The William Henry Smith School

RAP30 Risk Assessment for Tool use outdoors

Main Hazards:-	Who may be Harmed?
Cutting / stabbing / chopping injuries	All members
Trip hazards	All members

Hazard is Likelihood x Severity to give Rating Score
Likelihood 1-5 (1=remote possibility; 5=will almost certainly happen)
Severity 1-5 (1=Minor injury graze/bruise; 5=Death/permanent disability)

Rating Score
1-2 low risk no further action required
3-5 low priority – examine if practical to change
6-9 Medium – do something as soon as possible
10-15 – A high priority for action
16-25 Unacceptable! Requires immediate action or does not go ahead.

Rating (No control) – Arrived at by multiplying Likelihood of the hazard being encountered by the Severity of the possible injury **before** any control measures.

Rating (With control) – Likelihood and Severity are shown separately as well as the final rating. This is for controls put into place.

HAZARD	Likelihood	Severity	Rating Score No Controls	CONTROL MEASURES	Likelihood	Severity	Rating Score With Controls
Trips, stumble and bumps involving tools	2	1	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ensure there is a dedicated tool working area with specific places to store tools. ➤ Clear expectations of behaviour in tool area. ➤ Monitoring and coaching tool care and management. 	1	1	1
Knife cut / stab injuries	3	3	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Knives only to be used by those who have been coached as to correct handling. ➤ Dedicated working area. ➤ Use of 'blood bubble' principals. ➤ Clear expectations around tool area. ➤ Restrict novices and beginners to specific techniques and monitor their use. ➤ Ensure correct storage and care of knives. ➤ Clear instructions as to first-aider and location of first aid kit. ➤ Knife only ever out of sheath when in use. Once use is stopped or suspended for more than a few seconds the knife is stowed carefully in the sheath. 	2	2	4
Lopper / secateurs cut / chopping injuries	3	4	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Restrict use to those who have been coached as to correct handling. ➤ Restrict cutting to the floor and not to sticks being held in the hand. ➤ Cutting of hanging branches to be done two handed to prevent second hand being in the cutting area. ➤ Monitoring of tool use to ensure correctly used and stored. ➤ Loppers and secateurs only ever opened when in use. Once use is stopped or suspended for more than a few seconds the loppers are closed and stowed carefully or secateurs locked. ➤ Clear instructions as to first-aider and location 	2	3	6

				of first aid kit.			
Billhook / froe cut injuries	3	3	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Restrict use to those who have been coached as to the correct handling & use. ➤ Ensure they are never used as a chopping tool. ➤ Use with a partner where possible. ➤ Use only for splitting timber not for chopping. ➤ Clear instructions as to first-aid and location of first aid kit. 	2	2	4
Axe chopping injuries	3	4	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Restrict use to staff or experienced students who have demonstrated a high level of skill in sharp tool work. ➤ Work on a dedicated chopping block or in the sharp tool area. ➤ Users must be coached as to the uses and limitations of the tool. ➤ Monitor closely all use and support as necessary. ➤ Clear instructions as to first-aid and location of first aid kit. 	2	4	8
Saw cutting injuries	3	4	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Restrict use to those who have been coached in the correct use of each saw. ➤ Model and monitor correct safe use of pruning saws and bow saws. ➤ Ensure the saw being used is fit for purpose. ➤ Clear instructions as to first-aid and location of first aid kit. 	2	3	6

I have read and understood the risk assessment for **Tool use outdoors** above.

I have undertaken to add or amend the above to suit the specific details of this risk assessment.

Signed _____

Date _____