



General centre Risk Assessment & guidance for visiting groups and centre users.



Scouts
South London

The South London Scout Centre

General site risk assessment and guidance for visiting groups

This document describes hazards and controls at the South London Scout Centre. It has been compiled specifically to provide relevant information to groups visiting our centre. Risk assessment is a process and not just a document, this document will only be effective if you consider the guidance below:

Our approach to risk

As the person organising your visit you have a legal duty of care to your group members to ensure that the risks to their health and safety are as low as reasonably practicable. South London Scouts and The Scouts view is that exposure to risk is an essential part of educating young people. It teaches them how to recognise and manage risks in their everyday lives (a skill for life), and is a tool enabling them to learn and develop. This combination of managed risk, challenge, and learning is at the very heart of scouting and adventure.

Real and perceived risk

In general, when we are faced with circumstances which are unfamiliar to us we have a tendency to misinterpret the level of risk that is presented – if our perception of the risk is misaligned to the real risk then this has an impact on how we plan and complete the experience. As planners we can suffer from this perception gap in two distinct ways – our over-perception of risk may lead us to prohibit valuable activities which should instead be controlled – for instance fire lighting. Alternatively, our underperception of risk may lead us to ignore real risks which we should take more steps to mitigate against – a tired driver taking everyone home after a camp.

Your responsibilities

As the person organising your visit you need to fully consider the risks presented by the entire experience, however you do not need to take additional measures to control risks which we have already controlled unless we specifically ask you to do so – for instance you need to provide appropriate supervision, first aid and manage the behaviour of your group. Of course, our team are on hand to help and support you but you remain responsible.

Wild lands and human hands

Our centre is located in an inspiring natural location, the natural world has inherent risks which cannot and should not be removed. The trees and grounds that are present on our site are a core part of the adventures we offer – they are integral to the experience of the young people who visit. Where a natural hazard and its consequences are obvious to all we deliberately take little action to eliminate or isolate it. For these hazards a combination of instruction and supervision are a reasonable control, it falls to your accompanying adults to provide this control.

Where the hazard is less apparent we try to adopt the least intrusive method of reducing the risk – conducting regular tree inspections and selectively managing woodland is an example of this approach. If a hazard is presented by a manmade object (like a building) or some form of human activity, then we overtly control these foreseeable risks where this is appropriate to the activity.

In some situations, you should reasonably expect the possibility of minor harm – this is normally not a reason not to complete the activity. For instance, small cuts and grazes while shelter building, or capsizing a canoe and falling in the water are both to be expected and form a valuable part of the adventure. In other situations the exposure to risks is clearly unacceptable and we take actions to control these hazards - slipping on a set of steps because they have been poorly managed is not part of the adventure!

General Site Risk Assessment – The South London Scout Centre (The Fort)

This document describes hazards and controls at the South London Scout Centre. This risk assessment excludes adventurous activities and only includes hazards which may affect visiting centre users – it does not cover hazards specific to workers. Visiting groups must undertake their own suitable and sufficient risk assessment to control and mitigate hazards from their visit. You should be particularly aware of hazards with a medium residual risk rating which require you to be aware and alert to how this hazard should be controlled during your visit.

Hazards	Who may be harmed?	Foreseeable Severity	Control Measures in Place	Residual Risk
Pedestrian impact from a vehicle	Visitors, Centre Team	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Vehicle routes are visually obvious in high traffic areas ○ Key meeting areas are closed to vehicles ○ Drivers asked to observe site speed limits and drive with care and awareness of pedestrians ○ Young people should be briefed to be aware of vehicles when moving on tracks/roads 	Medium
Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG or LP gas) leak	Visitors, Centre Team	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A Major Incident Plan exists to manage fire or similar events on centre. 	Low
Serious first aid incident requiring additional support	Visitors, Centre Team	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Major Incident Plan identifies key support to assist medical services – such as marshalling traffic routes. 	Medium



Hazards	Who may be harmed?	Foreseeable Severity	Control Measures in Place	Residual Risk
Buildings	Visitors, Centre Team	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fire alarms in all building ○ Evacuation procedure in place ○ Emergency lighting ○ Fire extinguishers ○ Fire blankets in kitchens ○ Maintenance records kept ○ Annual checks and servicing of equipment and installations 	Fire -Medium for Wooden buildings. Low for Brick built. Gas leaks - Medium. Electrocution.- Medium
Safeguarding incident on centre	Visitors	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All visiting adults responsible for young people on centre are responsible for the wellbeing of their young people ○ All South London Scout Centre volunteers have completed safeguarding training and a DBS check ○ Our senior volunteers have more detailed safeguarding training and are able to liaise with The Scout Associations central safeguarding team for support 	Medium
Fallen trees or damage to tree branches/limbs.	Visitors, Centre Team	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The site is zoned into High, and low risk areas, an arboreal survey is completed on regular basis by a competent person to identify high hazard trees, and a management plan is in place for these areas. Low risk areas are managed as natural woodland ○ All site users are asked to be vigilant of and report hazards. Groups leading camping should include hazards of site selection in their risk assessment and training to participants 	Medium



Hazards	Who may be harmed?	Foreseeable Severity	Control Measures in Place	Residual Risk
Trespass or unauthorised people on site.	Visitors, Centre Team	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All buildings are lockable and guests are given keys to secure buildings when not occupied Critical services, equipment and stored are secured when not in use. All volunteers and visitors are asked to be vigilant for unauthorised people, and either challenge or report concerns 	Medium
Electrical fault or damage to electrical systems on site	Visitors, Centre Team	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All fixed electrical systems are inspected by a competent person on annually in line with the relevant management arrangements. Portable electrical equipment owned and operated by the centre is tested annually Staff and volunteers are trained to identify electrical hazards. 	Low
Water contamination (e.g. Legionella) or problem with water systems on site	Visitors, Centre Team	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A full L8 risk assessment and management plan is in place for the site which includes flushing, and temperature checks for services. 	Low
Exposure to Asbestos in older structures on site.	Visitors, Centre Team	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An asbestos survey has been carried out An asbestos management plan is in place for the centre. Any asbestos present is managed in accordance with HSE guidance 	Low
Building Fire	Visitors, Centre Team	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Every building has a Fire Risk assessment which details fire hazards and specified means of escape and fire actions. Groups are briefed on the buildings fire plan upon arrival and this information is repeated at fire points within the building. 	Low



Hazards	Who may be harmed?	Foreseeable Severity	Control Measures in Place	Residual Risk
Falls from Height	Visitors, Centre Team	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Any artificial structure providing access to height is secured from unauthorised access ○ Volunteers are trained in safe working at height and provided with necessary controls and PPE when this is required. ○ Natural features (trees etc) are not managed except where there is an increased risk of unauthorised use, where signage warns of the hazard 	Low
Work equipment and plant	Visitors, Centre Team	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All work equipment is inspected before use and on a regular basis dependent on its level of risk as determined by PUWER ○ High risk equipment which presents a high risk of injury if used incorrectly or by untrained users is secured or made inoperable when not in use 	Low
Injury from unauthorised access to confined spaces	Visitors, Centre Team	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All confined spaces are secured from unauthorised access. 	Low
Manual handling injury to customers	Visitors	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Customers are responsible for the safety of their group while completing self-led activities – including loading or unloading equipment, collecting firewood. 	Low
Vermin (e.g. rats, mice) spreading zoonosis	Visitors Centre Team	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Volunteers are vigilant for signs of vermin in and around buildings ○ Professional pest contractors are used to control rodents and vermin on site where necessary. 	Low



Hazards	Who may be harmed?	Foreseeable Severity	Control Measures in Place	Residual Risk
Participants are injured during a self led activity	Participants	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Groups completing self-led activities (including those hired in) are clearly advised that they are responsible for managing the risks of the activity ○ All hired in activity equipment/services is supplied with good practice instructions, details of emergency support, and where it requires an indication of competency qualifications/permits are verified and an induction is completed with the hirer 	Medium
Woodland - General Fire -. nature of site, wind direction at time. Campers will be advised by Crew for any specific incident	Visitors Centre Team	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fire buckets and beaters are located around the camping areas ○ Warning notice advising visitors campers during hot dry spells ○ Evacuation procedure in place ○ Visitors will be advised by Centre Team for any specific incident 	Low in Winter Medium in Summer



Severity factor & remaining risk assessment

Level	Severity Description	Residual Risk Description
Low	Minor injury requiring no treatment, or simple first aid.	Control measures have reduced the severity and/or likelihood to minimal levels.
Medium	Injury would require the participant to stop doing the activity; medical treatment is beyond the skills of a basic first aider.	Control measures have reduced severity and/or likelihood to an adequate level but hazard still requires dynamic risk assessment and conscious consideration.
High	Injury would require expert medical attention and/or be fatal.	Control measures haven't reduced severity or likelihood to an acceptable level.

Document Control

Document managed by: xxx

Approved by: South London Scouts County Trustee Board

Last edit date: 5th July 2023

Review date: 1st January 2024

