

Risk Assessment: Bow Saw

Venue	Rewilding Adventure Site, Dunsdale		Completed by:	Morgan Lax		Date:	14th April 2025	Review Date:	14th April 2027
Description of site / activity / tools:									
Bow saws are routinely used with Forest School and bushcraft activities for cutting wood which is thicker than 2” in diameter. Thereby providing a means of cutting wood beyond the diameter of the loppers. The bow saw is a tool, and its use should be viewed as such.									
	Hazard	Harm	People at Risk	Existing Control Measure	Likelihood (1-3)	Severity (1-3)	Rating LxS (1-9)	New Control Measure Who? When?	Comments
1.	Cutting knee during use	Cut	User	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tool talk• Cutting position is the side of the body• Stable cutting position• Wearing long trousers advised	1	2	3		Cutting position may be <i>Paired Kneeling, Single Kneeling, Foot on/Leaning</i> or <i>Standing Saw Horse</i>
2.	Cutting hands during use	Cut	User	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tool talk• Advised that a glove worn on helper hand• Helper hand through the saw until cut is established, or saw blade <i>blocked</i> by physical object (crate/saw horse arms)• Careful and controlled use	1	2	3		
3.	Cutting another/assistant during use	Cut	Assistant	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tool talk• Glove worn on helper hand advised• Helper hand through the saw until cut is established• Careful and controlled use• Communication and eye contact between users prior to use• One tool and an arm rule	2	2	4		
4.	Kneeling on unsheathed saw blade	Cutting knee	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tool talk• High visibility saws used• Replace cover after use• Return saw to bag when not in use• Lay saw to side, blade to body during use	1	2	3		
5.	Walking and blade catching another	Cut	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tool talk• Check cover in place before picking up• Carry <i>like a handbag</i>- blade to ground	1	2	3		
6.	Removing/ Replacing blade cover	Cutting self	User	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tool talk• Wearing gloves	1	2	2		
7.	Sharpening blade	Cutting self	User	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tool talk• Staff to maintain saws• Replace entire blade	1	2	2		

8.				•					
9.				•					
Comments/Concerns: This risk assessment will be reviewed in the event of any incident or near miss in order to be fully informed for the future. It is not an exhaustive list, and is written with experience of FS and bushcraft activities in mind and the incidents (or lack of) that have been encountered in the preceding 11 years.					Recommendations: For bi-annual review- due March 2027				