

Risk Assessment: Draw Knife and Shave Horse

Venue	Rewilding Adventure Site, Dunsdale	Completed by:	Morgan Lax	Date:	14th April 2025	Review Date:	14th April 2027
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Description of site / activity / tools:

The use a traditional vice of the shave horse, and then the carving or peeling of wood with a draw knife is a used as part of greenwood activities, featuring in Forest School and bushcraft programmes.

	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.	Trapping fingers in moving parts	•Crush injuries	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verbal warning • Demonstrate safe use 	1	1	2		
2.	Fingers/ hands on blade /Cut whilst using	•Cut	User	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tool talk • Verbal warning • Demonstrate safe use • No handling blade policy • Periodic inspection of equipment to ensure handles are sound • Ensure blade is sharp 	1	2	2		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having a sharp blade appears to be counter-intuitive to avoiding cuts; however, a sharp blade reduces the force needed to cut- thereby more control can be had over the blade • The nature of using the draw knife is such that hands/legs are out of the way and the stroke ends prior to arriving at the body • Gloves will be available but the nature of the use of the draw knife does not mean they are necessary
3.	Removing/ replacing blade cover	•Cutting self	User	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tool talk • Verbal warning • Demonstrate safe use • No handling blade policy • Ensure cover is replaced when not in use 	1	2	2		
4.	Splinters from shave horse	•Splinters on legs	User	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear long trousers • Periodic inspection of equipment to ensure seat bed is safe 	1	1	1		
5.	Kneeling, standing or sitting on blade	•Cutting self	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tool talk • Replace cover when not in use • Return to bag when finished • Tool placed on bed during pauses 	1	2	2		

6.	Sharpening	Cutting self	User	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wear gloves whilst sharpening Instructors to sharpen 	1	2	2		
7.				•					
8.				•					
9.				•					
10.				•					
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 encounter in the preceding 8 years.					Recommendations: For bi-annual review- due March' 2025.				