

Risk Assessment: Improvised shelter building

Venue	Rewilding Adventure Site, Dunsdale	Completed by:	Morgan Lax	Date:	14th April 2025	Review Date:	14th April 2027		
Description of site / activity / tools:									
The construction of a shelter, or den is common within both Forest School and bushcraft. Shelters/dens feature in literally every programme we have; therefore have been covered during qualifying courses for instructors.									
	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 between poles	Crush injuries/ bruising	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Verbal warning• Walking in small groups• Buddy system to carry logs• Controlled lifts carried• Instructor/adult supervision for younger groups• Advise that poles no thicker than participants’ forearms are used (this will naturally limit the size & weight of the poles• Use of gloves	1	1	1		
2.	Thorns in hands/ arms/ legs	Pain & discomfort	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Verbal warning• Wearing of gloves advised• Long sleeves and trousers worn	2	1	2		
3.	Structure collapse	Injury/ entrapment	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Verbal warning• Discuss appropriate ways to secure poles (A-frame and ridge)• Consider use of cordage to secure poles• Require that the structure is supported until it is securely in place• Limit the size of the poles being used• Structures are not weight bearing• No one underneath if something is placed on top of the shelter	1	2	2		
4.	Carrying oversized logs	Strike another	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Verbal warning• Practitioners to observe and intervene• Discuss methods for participants to keep themselves safe/safe ways of	2	1	2		

				working- <i>one front and one back</i>					
5.				•					
6.				•					
7.				•					
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 encounter in the preceding 11 years.					Recommendations: For bi-annual review- due March 2027				