

SI Risk Assessment For Campsites – updated 20200502

General Requirements	Applies to: The Scout Centre Manager, Warden Leader or Scout in charge of a scout Camping site	Do not undertake camping activities if you have no previous experience. Seek appropriate training, or observe and be part of similar activities run by more experienced scouters before attempting to run the activities themselves.
	Resources:	Scouting Ireland Adventure Skills – Camping Competency Skills The Scouting Trail

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<b>Hazard</b> (What can cause harm?)	<b>Risk</b> (Who might be harmed and how?)	<b>Level of Risk</b> (High, Medium, Low?)	<b>Control Measure/Remedy</b> (What will be done to ensure that either no-one get harmed or any harm can be recovered from)	<b>Responsibility</b> (who will ensure the control measures are implemented and by when)
Access to and from and throughout the campsite/ and Slips, trips and falls	Scouts, Scouters, Other campsite users.. Vehicles and Pedestrians sharing the same roads/ routes – risk of collision. Poor underfoot conditions or inadequate lighting can result in slips, trips and falls. Probably the most prevalent risk in scouting	Probable x Minor = Low Risk	Permanent campsites to have access roads, designated set down areas for arrivals, collections and deliveries. Either separate routes for pedestrians and vehicles or 10kph speed limits and if necessary speed bumps. Campsite building floor surfaces to be well maintained, have adequate lighting after dark and procedures for housekeeping. A First aid kit should be available to deal with minor cuts and bruising. Temporary campsites including greenfield sites; Assess the location for safe access and egress and what temporary controls are necessary such as appropriate footwear, traffic separation, personal torches after dark and a suitable first aid kit.	Scout Centre Manager, Campsite warden or campsite chief  Scouter in charge of the camp.

LEVEL OF RISK MATRIX		Potential severity of harm		
		Minor Injury (e.g. hazard can cause illness or injury but the results would not be expected to be serious)	Moderate Injury (e.g. hazard can result in serious injury and/or illness, requiring hospitalisation)	Major Injury (e.g. hazard capable of causing death or serious and life threatening injuries)
Likelihood of harm	Unlikely (injury rare, though possible)	Very Low	Low	Medium
	Possible (injury could occur occasionally)	Low	Medium	High
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Fire/ Explosion	Scouts, Scouters, Other campsite users. Campfires, Altar fires, Aerosols (deodorants)	Probable x Minor = Medium Risk	National Scout Centres and occupied buildings. <a href="#">The Fire Safety Guidelines for Scouting Ireland Scout Dens and Meeting Places</a> applies. Scouters and Scouts training on safety in use of gas appliances, altar fires and campfire ring. Supervision of campfire and all burners and fires being used by scouts up to Camping Adventure Skills Level 4. Always have a means of extinguishing a fire nearby. Examples are stored pressure extinguishers (permanent structures), Fire blankets (cooking fire or clothing fire), Buckets of sand and Water (easily contained fires) First Aid kits should contain Burns kits or copious amounts of clean cold water to cool any burns. Aerosols not allowed for youth members.	Scout Centre Manager, Warden or Scouter in charge of the camp.

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	Scouts, Scouters, Other campsite users. Gas heating, cooking and lighting. Risk of fire, burns from hot flames, explosion, asphyxiation or carbon monoxide poisoning.	Probable x Minor = Medium	Gas appliances must only be used in accordance with manufacturers and suppliers instructions. Fixed equipment must only be installed, certified and inspected by a registered gas engineer. Portable gas appliances must be suited to the task and only used by those trained and competent to use them safely. See <a href="#">CAMPING GAS - Guidance on the safe use of gas appliances for cooking, barbeques, heaters - outdoors and indoors</a> courtesy of scouts.org.uk for detailed guidance on gas safety using portable equipment. When replacing gas boiler rings consider upgrading to ones that incorporate Flame Failure Devices.	Scout Centre Manager, Warden or Scouter in charge of the camp.
Falls from height	Scouts, Scouters, Other campsite users. Climbing trees and other structures on site. Climbing large pioneering projects. Climbing walls.	Probable x Moderate = High Risk	Fixed climbing walls and frames in Scout centres must be access controlled so that all climbing is appropriately supervised. Assess the risk of falling, the potential harm and the ability to treat such injuries (both first aid and access to advanced medical care) before permitting climbing activities. Consider the use of climbing harnesses, ropes and belay equipment for higher risk climbs.	Scout centre managers, wardens and Scouter in charge of activity.
Falling objects	Scouts, Scouters, Other campsite users. Large trees, tall buildings, ruined buildings, high winds. Any of these can result in large objects falling and causing harm.	Possible x Moderate = medium Risk	Scout Centre structures including roofing materials must be checked for security and maintained. Do not camp or hold activities close to: 1. Large dead or diseased trees where limbs could fall into the camp. Campsite managers should inspect all large trees every winter and after storms for potential damage and remove any limbs or trees that pose a significant threat of falling on people or buildings. 2. Ruined buildings where any loose structural or roof material could fall. 3. At the base of steep mountains, cliffs or higher unstable ground. 4. Any where there is potential for damage from wind-blown debris if high winds are forecast.	Scout Centre manager, warden or Scouter in charge of activity.

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<p>Hygiene and food borne illnesses</p>	<p>Scouts, Scouters, Other campsite users. Lack of personal hygiene, and lack of food hygiene can lead to cross contamination infection and illness</p>	<p>Probable x Minor = Medium Risk</p>	<p>If campsite facilities have flushing toilets, water and soap they should be maintained as this will be expected by visiting groups. If facilities are not provided or are temporarily suspended this must be brought to the attention of visiting groups who will have to provide temporary sanitation facilities. Scout training to include importance of good personal hygiene, food hygiene, how to preserve and fully cook high risk foods and how to clean up afterwards and properly dispose of any leftover foods to reduce the potential to attract vermin. Recognise the signs of food poisoning, provide first aid and seek advanced medical care if necessary.</p>	<p>Scout centre manager, Campsite warden or campsite chief</p> <p>Scouter in charge of the camp.</p> <p>Scouter in charge of the camp.</p>
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<p>Water borne hazards (Legionella, E Coli, Cryptosporidium etc)</p>	<p>Scouts, Scouters, Other campsite users. Legionnaires disease carried anywhere water is atomised like shower heads, can be caught by people whose immune system is compromised. Infection symptoms may include: Cough, Shortness of breath, Fever, Muscle aches, Headaches. E Coli etc can get into water systems from contaminated sources: Infection symptoms may include watery diarrhoea, nausea, vomiting, fever, and stomach cramps.</p>	<p>Possible x Minor = Low Risk</p>	<p>Any showers in campsites should be run at their hottest setting for one minute after any prolonged period of non-use. Shower heads should be removed and disinfected quarterly. This helps to kill any possible legionella in the shower head. All potable (drinking) water on permanent campsites to come from municipal supply or a regularly tested and certified source. Heed any boil water warnings from the local council/ water administration. Non potable water can be used for flushing toilets and anywhere it will not be ingested (or used for teeth brushing). Whenever camping without any potable water supply consider the following hierarchy of controls:          1. Bring potable water on camp with you          2. Water contaminated by microorganisms can be sanitised whereas water contaminated by chemical toxins cannot be sanitised. Where the source of natural water nearby is unlikely to contain chemical toxins it can be made potable by treating it in any of the following three ways:          A. Boiling it for 1 minute or          B. Use chemical sterilisation (water purification tablets) as instructed or          C. Use water filtration or purification systems.</p>	<p>Scout Centre manager, Campsite warden or campsite chief  Scouter in charge of the camp.</p>
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Chemical products (hygiene products, oils, paints, solvents, herbicides, pesticides)	Scouts, Scouters, Other campsite users, Wildlife, Pets.	Unlikely x Moderate = Low Risk	Only keep chemical products that are used on the campsite. Request from the supplier a copy of the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for all chemical products that are in regular use on the campsite. The SDS provides details of the hazards and precautions to take when using the product as well as first aid measures. Restrict access to authorised and responsible persons only. Use only as directed and advise users of the precautions to take and first aid measures. Dispose of according to manufacturer’s instructions and in accordance with local laws. Consider possible non intended consequences of using herbicides and pesticides on the campsite before considering their use.	Scout Centre Manager, Campsite warden or campsite chief
Manual handling i.e. Pushing, Pulling, Lifting, Lowering or carrying a load	Scouts, Scouters, Contractors, Other campsite users. Back and other musculo-skeletal injuries are very prevalent where people infrequently carry out manual handling activities.	Probable x Minor = Medium Risk	SI staff who carry out manual handling activities (and not many people don’t) should be provided with manual handling training that reflects the type of manual handling tasks they perform and also the ability to assess manual handling activities to determine if the task can be performed safely. Contractors should be asked to conform that they are trained and competent in manual handling for the work they are required to do for SI. Scouters and Scouts should be given training in carrying out manual handling assessments, how and when to avoid handling, how to make use of mechanical lifting aids, multi-person lifting and training in safe lifting.	Operations Manager (for SI staff)  Those who procure contractors.  To be included in Scouter training

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Animal/ Insect attack	Scouts, Scouters, Contractors, Other campsite users. Most wild and domesticated animals in Ireland are not to be feared however some animals can become dangerous if they feel threatened. Examples include Dogs, Cattle (Bulls and Cows), Deer (Stags during the mating season, Does when protecting their young), Cats (feral cats particularly when protecting kittens), Midges, Bees and Wasps (bites or stings can be uncomfortable, itchy and in some people lead to anaphylactic shock) Dolphins (when protecting their young), Jellyfish, Seals, Sharks (Basking) Weaver fish (at low tide on east/ SE coasts),	Possible x Moderate = Medium Risk	Check with the campsite warden or landowner to see if there are any animals on or likely to visit the campsite. Avoid campsites with cattle or deer if possible. If animals are encountered do not get close or shoo them away. Find a route around them to avoid possible conflict. Observe the animals- if they are scraping the ground with their hooves, lowering their heads or ears, bearing their teeth, barking or ok threatening then back away. Bites and stings – apply first aid. See more details on the most dangerous animals, how to avoid them and first aid should you be injured by them on <a href="http://goireland.about.com/od/safetyinireland/ss/Dangerous-Animals-in-Ireland.htm#showall">http://goireland.about.com/od/safetyinireland/ss/Dangerous-Animals-in-Ireland.htm#showall</a>	Scout Centre manager, Campsite warden or campsite chief/ Scouter in charge of the camp.
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Illness caused by Plants and Animals	Scouts, Scouters, Contractors, Other campsite users.			Scout centre Manager, Campsite warden or Scouter in charge of the camp.
	Leptospirosis (Weils disease). Mainly through contact with water contaminated by rats urine.	Possible x Moderate = Medium Risk	<p>Do not go swimming or boating in water which is obviously polluted</p> <p>Cover any cuts or abrasions with a waterproof dressing while swimming or kayaking</p> <p>Shower thoroughly following water activities</p> <p>Make sure the sporting clothing you wear minimises your contact with water</p> <p>Wash your hands after handling any animal or contaminated clothing and always before eating or drinking</p> <p>Clean any cuts acquired during swimming or other near-water activities. Apply first aid as soon as possible</p> <p>If you get a flu-like illness within a three week period after engaging in any of these activities you should visit your doctor immediately, and tell her or him of your concerns and possible exposure to dirty or stagnant water.</p>	

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	<p>Lyme disease is caused by infected ticks. These can be found in woodland, moorland and other grassy areas in moist undergrowth. Symptoms A rash (in 80-90% of cases) – erythema migrans appears 3-30 days after bite). Other symptoms include fever, chills, headaches, stiff neck, fatigue, muscle aches and joint pain.</p>	<p>Possible x Moderate = Medium Risk</p>	<p>Avoid Tick Bites</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Wear long trousers, long sleeved shirt and shoes</li> <li>2. Consider using an insect repellent</li> <li>3. After your day out, check skin, hair and warm skinfolds (especially the neck and scalp of children)</li> <li>4. If you find a tick, remove it - consult your GP if symptoms develop.</li> </ol> <p>Tick Bites-What to do</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Only a minority of ticks carry infection. If removed within a few hours, your risk of infection is low</li> <li>2. Remove the tick (with tweezers) by gripping it close to the skin. Wash with soap and water</li> <li>3. Remove any mouthparts with tweezers</li> <li>4. Over the next few weeks check the area for swelling/redness</li> <li>5. If a rash/other symptoms develop, see your GP and report the tick bite</li> </ol>	
	<p>Giant Hogweed looks like a large Cows parsley. It is a tall (usually 3 – 5m), with several hundred small white flowers in large umbrella-like flower heads up to 500mm across. The stems, edges and undersides of the leaves bear small hairs containing phototoxic sap. The slightest contact with human skin can cause painful blistering and severe skin irritation when exposed to sunlight. Blistering can take 24- 48 hours to appear after exposure, and dense pigmentation is visible after 3 – 5 days.</p>	<p>Possible x Moderate = Medium Risk</p>	<p>If identified before any contact is made do not approach the plant. If you do come into contact with giant hogweed cover the affected area of skin immediately from sunlight. Then wash the skin with cold water as soon as possible. If contact is with the eyes or blisters occur seek medical advice.</p>	

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	Wild Mushrooms can cause severe vomiting, diarrhoea, sweating, salivation, hallucinations, flushed skin, dilated pupils, delirium, and drowsiness.	Possible x Moderate = Medium Risk	As a general rule do not eat wild mushrooms unless you are 100% sure that they are safe. If after eating mushrooms any of the symptoms are experienced call the poisons helpline 01 809 2166 or <a href="http://www.poisons.ie">www.poisons.ie</a> Open from 8am to 10pm. Outside these hours contact your GP or hospital or call 999 / 112.	
Campsite maintenance and service machinery	Scouts, Scouters, Contractors, Other campsite users. Lawn mowers, tractors, forklift trucks, teleporters, service vehicles, generators, lighting generators. Steel tent pegs and other camping equipment left in/ on the ground can cause damage to lawn mowing equipment and possible injure the operator or someone nearby.	Possible x Moderate = Medium Risk	All machinery should only be used by Approved persons. All machinery and equipment must be maintained so it is safe in use and all guarding and interlocks are in place, working and secure when the machinery or equipment is in service. Where possible use machinery and equipment away from campsite users. Lawnmowers should only be used by Approved persons between 25 and 70 years old. Only the lawnmower operator should be near the mower when in operation. Petrol generators should be avoided owing to the increased fire risk. Where they are used for small camps they should be sited well away from tents, buildings or combustible materials.	Campsite warden or campsite chief/ Scouter in charge of the camp.

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Electrical installation	Scouts, Scouters, Contractors, Other campsite users. Many campsites offer mains electricity to campers at each pitch. Others allow use of mains power to charge mobile phones and battery packs. If not installed, maintained and used correctly this could lead to Electric Shock, Fire, Damage to electrical equipment and buildings. All socket outlet circuits and electric Showers must be protected by appropriately sized fuses and a Residual Current Device (RCD). The RCD is what protects you from electric shock should a dangerous fault occur in the electrical circuit.	Unlikely x Major = Medium Risk	An electrical test on the installation will be conducted by a registered electrical contractor at least every five years, after any changes, faults or damage. Residual Current Devices (RCDs) on all socket outlet circuits should be tested at least twice annually, at the start and end of the camping season. Where RCDs are provided at a camping pitch the scouter in charge of the pitch should check the operation of the RCD by pressing the test button. If it trips then it is working and can be reset. If it doesn't trip then don't use the socket outlet and report it to the campsite warden. The Scout group will visually observe all portable equipment regularly for signs of damage. All new or renovated premises should consider installing RCDs on lighting circuits - National Rules for Electrical Installations (I.S. 10101:2020)	Camp Centre Managers, Campsite warden or campsite chief/ Scouter in charge of the camp.
Campsite Security	Scouts, Scouters, other campsite users. Threat of harm to individuals, Theft or damage to equipment or buildings.	Possible x Minor = Low Risk	Find out what security arrangements are in place on the campsite. If security is non-existent the scouter in charge will need to assess how at-risk the campsite is and consider the following options: 1. Organise a security roster of scouters 2. Bring valuables with the group while away from the campsite. 3. Report any suspicious activity to the local Gardai/ PSNI.	Scout centre managers, Campsite warden or campsite chief/ Scouter in charge of the camp

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Asbestos	Campsite/ Centre staff, Contractors. Some older buildings (Scout Dens, meeting places and campsite buildings) built before 2000 may have asbestos in corrugated roofs, rainwater ducts and piping, ceiling tiles, floor tiles, thermal insulating products or fire stopping materials.	Possible x major Injury = High risk	An Asbestos Containing Material (ACM) survey should be undertaken by a competent person to determine if there is any accessible ACM in the building(s), and what condition it is in. If in good condition and unlikely to release fibres (non-friable) through abrasion or operations and maintenance then it can be marked as ACM and left alone. If in a friable condition then it either needs to be marked and encapsulated or else removed by a competent person. Before any of these are disturbed for maintenance or demolition purposes they need to be formally identified, removed and disposed of according to the appropriate safe procedure.	Scout Centre managers, Local Scout group leader.
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