



# Normal Operating Procedure (inc. Risk Assessment ) Bushcraft

*For leader led delivery this document should be read in conjunction with PGL's Leader Led resources and when reading this document substitute 'Instructor' with 'Leader'*

## Risk Profile

The following risks have been identified through PGL's risk assessment process:

- a. Equipment Failure including collapse of shelters/structures
- b. Extreme Weather
- c. Entrapment of hair, fingers, loose clothing & jewellery, entanglement in ropes
- d. Slips/trips/falls – including wet/uneven ground and steps
- e. Injury from participation/physical exertion
- f. Fatigue/exhaustion/dehydration
- g. Injury from manual handling
- h. Injury from misuse of equipment or use of broken equipment
- i. Injuries from sharp objects
- j. Splinters & rope burn
- k. Burns from fire
- l. Injury from nearby vegetation or animals
- m. Emotional distress and physical reactions to smells in some elements
- n. Contaminated water
- o. Ingestion of sanitizing/cleaning chemicals

Implementation of the following operating procedures reduces the residual risk to a level as low as reasonably practicable given the intended purpose of the activity.

## Control Measures

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### Deployment Requirements

|                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Instructor Qualifications:      | Centre based Training and Assessment by a competent person<br>Leader led complying with 'Leader Led Resource' Document |
| Instructor – Participant ratio: | 1:15   |
| Total group size:               | 15   |
| Active participation:           | 1:15   |



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## 1. Equipment Requirements

### Per Instructor:

- 1 x instructor knife
- 1 x pair of Cut5 ProtectaPlus gloves
- Survivor Manual

### Per Activity Base:

- Paracord
- 6 x tarpaulin sheets
- 10 x lengths of rope
- A collection of larger branches & logs
- 6 x water containers (with water)

## 2. Specific Clothing Requirements (Instructor & Participant)

- Sturdy footwear
- Long hair tied back

## 3. Session Preparation

- a. Both the party leader and a Senior member of staff are to be consulted as to whether the group are allowed to light fires
- b. The instructor must check the area to be used for the session. Different types of venue require different equipment needs:
  - Beach: firewood & other wood for pokers
  - Field: firewood, sticks to make poles for shelter, water source
  - Forest: firewood, trees for suspending shelters, water source
- c. Tinder tins must be stocked correctly.

## 4. Session Instruction

- a. An introduction/scenario game should be used to introduce the activity and to allow the instructor to start judging suitability/maturity of the participants (examples in ACOP). This can be delivered when travelling or at base.
- b. The safety briefing must include:
  - i. Area boundaries
  - ii. Expected behaviour, with specific reference to knives, fire, and sticks.
  - iii. Carrying techniques
  - iv. Manual handling techniques if participants are carrying objects
  - v. Other site specific rules
- c. The instructor must ensure guests are supervised throughout the session and that they understand the area boundaries.
- d. The instructor must check any shelter built by participants to ensure they won't collapse during the session.



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**5. Session Conclusion**

- a. Tinder boxes must be re-stocked and knives sharpened when returned to Stores.

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**FOR CENTER USE ONLY:**

The risk assessment procedure has been completed by:

| DATE | PRINT NAME | SIGNATURE |
|------|------------|-----------|
|      |            |           |