



## **Woodventurers Use of Fires Policy**

Camp fires, the use of kelly kettles and lighting fires with fire strikers are part of Woodland Learning sessions. Woodventurers aim to ensure that all adults/children working with fires and/or kelly kettles during Woodland Learning sessions will do so safely and with as little risk to themselves as possible. To do this all staff/children/volunteers must adhere to the following procedures.

### **Safety and Responsibility**

- The Woodland Learning tutors will ensure the appropriate PPE is in place before fires are lit. Children will be made aware of the PPE needed and its location. This is a fire blanket, burns kit, fire gauntlets and a bucket containing at least 5l of water loosely covered with a towel.
- The Woodland Learning tutors will have prepared the fire area adequately with seating at least 1.5m from the fire.
- Fires are lit using a fire steel and tinder or a lighter/matches when necessary.
- No flammable liquids are to be used to light or accelerate fires.
- No plastics are to be burnt.
- Sticks/wood must be placed, not thrown, from the side of the fire. The hand should never go over the fire.
- A fire glove should be used when putting fuel on the fire or cooking.
- Appropriate equipment must be used when cooking on the fire.
- Long hair or loose clothing that may hang over the fire will be secured back before using the fire.

### **Extinguishing**

- All fires must be fully extinguished at the end of a session using water and stirring.
- Whenever possible, all fuels should be burnt off to ash.
- The Woodland Learning Tutors will ensure that any large remains of wood, especially when using a long log fire, are separated from one another and fully extinguished.
- When ash has cooled it should be finely scattered throughout the woodland to enable natural decomposition.

### **Cooking on the fire**

- Cooking on the fire will be supervised by a Woodland Tutor or competent adult at all times. Safety advice and intervention will be given as needed.
- Food will be prepared in a hygienic manner following the procedure as laid out in the hygiene policy. (can be found on [www.woodventurers.co.uk](http://www.woodventurers.co.uk) viewed on request.

- A hand washing basin with handsoap or anti bac gel will be available at all times.

### **Storm (Kelly) kettles**

- The Woodland Learning Tutor will demonstrate how to safely use a Kelly Kettle.
- The Kelly kettle must be placed on flat, clear ground and be stable before being lit.
- The Kelly Kettle should never be boiled with a stopper in.
- When moving the hot Kelly Kettle, adults/children will be expected to put the stopper in and use fire gauntlets.
- Children/volunteers will be shown how to feed the Kelly kettle safely. (stick held at the end and dropped in from the side; hand should never be placed over the top of the kettle)
- Fuel should burn itself out and be fully extinguished with water.

### **Fire Strikers**

- Each person will have a marked fire place in which to strike.
- Those using fire strikers will work at least 1.5 metres away from one another.
- The Woodland Learning tutor will demonstrate how to use the fire striker safely and supervise striking at all times.
- Once lit, fires must be kept small with addition of one or two small twigs and must be kept inside the marked fire place.
- The fire must be attended until the cotton wool or sticks have burned out.
- If it is windy cotton wool must be held secure with a stick until it has burned away

Reviewed March 2020 by Toni Rogers

Next review date March 2021