



Use of Fires Policy and procedure

Camp fires, the use of kelly kettles and lighting fires with fire strikers are part of Woodland Learning sessions. Woodventurers Woodland Learning aims to ensure that all adults/children working with fires and/or kelly kettles during 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 and fire gauntlets.
- These are kept in the safety boxes in the strongbox. There is one safety box for each programme.
- The fire area will be clearly demarcated with stone/logs or by using a firebowl with seating at least 1.5m from the fire.
- A minimum of 5l of water should be kept next to the fire for extinguishing and quenching.
- 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 removing hot material or cooking pans.
- Long hair or loose clothing that may hang over the fire will be secured back before using the fire.
- Gloves must be removed.
- The fire must stay within the marked area with logs well balanced and not at risk of falling outside the fire area.
- When using the fire, learners should be supervised by the responsible adult at all times.

Extinguishing

- All fires must be fully extinguished at the end of a session.
- Whenever possible, all fuels should be burnt off to ash.
- If there is unburned material left, tutors will ensure that any large remains of wood are separated from one another and saturated until fully extinguished.
- The ground must be saturated and dug over with a stick to release the heat from the ground before more water is poured on top.
- Fires in the fire bowl must be extinguished, the bowl filled with water, stirred with a stick then left to cool before ashes are spread at the edge of the woodland.

Cooking on the fire

- Cooking on the fire will be supervised by a 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 viewed on request.
- A hand washing basin with handsoap or anti bac gel will be available at all times.
- When cooking on the fire cooking equipment used must be clean and in good working order.
- Tripods or grills must be stable before use and any pans being used directly on the fire must be well supported.

Storm (Kelly) kettles

- Woodventurers Woodland Learning staff 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.
- Ash should be evenly dispersed throughout the woodland to allow for natural decomposition.

Fire Strikers - individual practice

- Each person will have a marked fire place in which to strike.
- Those using fire strikers will work at least 1 metre away from one another.
- Woodventurers Woodland Learning staff will demonstrate how to use the fire striker safely and supervise striking at all times.
- 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 February 2022 by Toni Rogers

Next review date February 2023