



Last updated by
L. Knowles
on
31/1/2019

Billhook risk assessment

Routine risk management protocols

- All members of Tyggwhistle staff have received first aid training.
- A fully stocked First Aid kit is maintained on site and transported into woodland during sessions.
- The ratio of children to one adult is never more than 6, for children under 8, or 10 for children over 8 years old.
- A laminated emergency procedure card is carried by all staff and posted on the wall of the indoor classroom.

Description of the Activity

Correct and incorrect use billhook, including carrying

Benefits

- Students learn to manage a woodland tool
- Students gain knowledge and pleasure from woodland crafts.
- Students develop hand/eye co-ordination
- Students build their risk management skills
- Students gain a sense of achievement from the activity

Risk Measurement guidance

Likelihood x severity

Likelihood

1. Only in extraordinary conditions
2. Rarely
3. Occasionally
4. Often
5. Every time activity is undertaken

Severity

1. Reassurance but no intervention
2. First aid required on site
3. Non-emergency hospital visit
4. Emergency hospitalisation
5. Fatality

Responses to risk

Score	Response
1-5	Acceptable risk
5-12	Acceptable risk with increased supervision and mitigation
12+	Unacceptable risk and should not be carried out without extensive mitigation

Hazard	Group at risk	Risk assessment			Activity specific control measures
		likelihood	severity	risk	
Billhook slips and severs femoral artery	All	1	5	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All groups receive specific instruction on correct use and handling of the tool. Tyggwhistle staff supervise user until satisfied that the user is safe and competent. 2 arms and a tool length policy used whilst equipment is being used. Tool returned to storage area when not in use. suitable clothing worn to minimise scratches. All users pre-assessed for existing medical conditions that might affect tool use.
Fingers holding billhook are struck by mallet	All	2	3	6	
Billhook leads to larger cuts	All	1	4	4	
Strain to back, arm or shoulder muscle	All	3	1	3	
Branch springs back and catches face or body	All	2	2	4	