

Watchtree Nature Reserve
 Great Orton, Carlisle, CA5 6NL
Location: Education Zone in Pond Wood

Title : Working within the education zone	Date of Assessment : 21/10/2020	Risk Assessor : Caroline Salkeld
Risk Assessment Reference : EDU 020	People involved in making this assessment : Ryan Dobson, Caroline Salkeld	
Task/ Process : Education Sessions	People at Risk : Employees, Members of the Public, Volunteers, New and Expectant Mothers, Service Users, Children & Young Persons, Visitors	

Hazard : Work equipment The equipment may have a sharp edges and may cause harm if not used safely.
Control Measures:
1. Clear instructions and demonstration from leader of how to use the equipment safely.
2. Observe the children using the equipment and give verbal guidance when necessary.
3. Ensure that children adhere to the tool safety routines.
4. Ensure that children are confident and competent using the tools.
5. Tool talk and demonstration always used.

Hazard : Fire Burns to hair or clothing catching fire. Possible burns to skin. Be aware of hot ash and embers that could be air borne.
Control Measures:
1. Set up a hand washing station in the woodland area.
2. Group wash hands when they have access to the toilets at the visitors center.
3. Group use hand sanitiser at the end of the activity.
4. Protective fire gloves available.
5. Continue to supervise and talk about fire safety throughout the task
6. Water, fire blanket, first aid kit for burns to be readily available.
7. Only one participant to add items or work on the fire at one time (feeding/blowing).
8. No crowding around fires.
9. Ensure that there is a suitable safe working distance between fires when working in small groups.
10. Be aware of the weather conditions, particularly wind.
11. Any loose clothing to be secured.
12. All participants with long hair to have it tied back.

Hazard : Infection Infection from water (including Weil's Disease)
Control Measures:
1. Wash your hands with soap and water or use the antibacterial gel.
2. Clean out wounds as soon as possible.
3. Cover any cuts and grazes with waterproof plasters.
4. Remind young children to avoid putting fingers in mouths.
5. Washing hands and using antibacterial gel, after activities and before eating or drinking.
6. Group to use hand sanitiser after activity and before eating and drinking.
7. Young children to be discouraged from putting fingers anywhere near their mouth.

Hazard : Manual handling During den building sessions the participants may decide to lift and move tree branches.
Control Measures:
1. Explain and encourage participants to work as a team when transporting heavy logs or branches.
2. Demonstrate how to move with logs and branches. Encourage participants to drag branch if longer than their arm.
3. Close supervision by instructors and supervising adults
4. Give appropriate instructions for safe lifting and carrying.

Hazard : Public or Visitor Access Learning sessions take place during opening hours therefore there are likely to be members of the public around during planned sessions.
Control Measures:
1. All participants that are involved in an activity session must stay insight of an instructor at all times.
2. All instructors and teachers visiting the reserve to be aware of public access to activity area.
3. Each instructor to carry a mobile phone and have contact numbers for other instructors in the group and the Watchtree Visitors Center.
4. Instructors and staff visiting are responsible for the whereabouts and well being of all individuals in their care.

Hazard : Uneven, Wet or Slippery Floors The full perimeter of the reserve is concreted but there are trails through the woodland areas where the ground level may be uneven and slippery due to weather conditions.
Control Measures:
1. Instructors and leaders to carry a mobile phone and have contact numbers to other instructors/teachers and the the Watchtree Visitors Centre.
2. Participants should stick to the paths or designated area during planned activities.
3. Groups stay within the boundaries that are set to ensure safety.

4. Participating members to wear appropriate footwear (wellies, walking shoes or trainers)

Hazard : Water There are pockets of puddles and a pond dipping area where the water is deep in parts on the reserve.

Control Measures:

1. Pond dipping activities take place from a fixed level platform.
2. Activity takes place where access to the water is restricted by a barrier.
3. Throw line and lifebuoy available and attached to the dipping platform.

Documents Associated with this Risk Assessment:

Review Date : 04/10/2021

Reviewer : Caroline Salkeld