



Torbay District Scout Campsite

Easterfield Lane, Torquay, TQ1 4SW

W3W Location: [caged.kings.ramp](https://www.caged.kings.ramp)



Risk Assessment

Activity: Altar Fires	Prepared by: Doug Eltham	Role: Trustee	Date: 02/06/2026
Location: Torbay District Scout Campsite	Reviewed by: Nicki Spalding	Role: District Lead Volunteer	Date: 03/6/2026
Review due by: 31/5/2027			

This risk assessment is to be used to support visiting groups prepare their own risk assessments. Responsibility for ensuring a suitable, current, and activity-specific risk assessment rests with the organising group and activity leaders.

Hazard and Risk	Who might be harmed	Control Measures Already in Place	Additional Actions	Residual Risk Rating	Amendments at Review
Manual handling of altar fire barrels causing trapped fingers, cuts from sharp edges and musculoskeletal injury	All participants	-	- Brief on sharp edges. - Awareness of sharp edges. - Leader to supervise lifting and carrying. - Participants instructed not to attempt lifting alone.	Med	
Slips, trips or falls on uneven or wet ground while handling equipment resulting in injury	All participants	Periodic inspection and maintenance of campsite grounds.	- Participants advised to be aware of ground conditions and hazards. - Ongoing vigilance during setup, use and dismantling.	Low	
Fire becoming too large or uncontrolled causing burns,	All participants	-	- Leader to supervise fire management. - Fire size controlled throughout activity. - Fire bucket positioned for quick access.	Med	

This risk assessment in no way negates the need for continual dynamic risk assessment

Risk Assessment TDS013 – Altar Fires
www.torbayscouts.org.uk

Hazard and Risk	Who might be harmed	Control Measures Already in Place	Additional Actions	Residual Risk Rating	Amendments at Review
clothing ignition or spread of fire			- Appropriate utensils - Altar fires not moved while hot.		
Fire positioned too close to tents causing ignition of tents from sparks or flames leading to fire spread	All participants	Fire buckets and alarm call points provided.	- Altar fires positioned at least 6 metres away from sleeping areas. - Leader to check distances before lighting. - Ongoing monitoring of wind direction and sparks.	Med	
Altar fire tipping over due to uneven ground or collision causing burns, fire spread and impact injuries	All participants	Altar fire stands are secure and solid.	- Participants instructed not to run or behave unsafely. - Fires positioned carefully. - Exclusion area identified and enforced.	Med	
Overcrowding around fire area causing contact burns, trips into fire or restricted escape routes	All participants	-	- Leader to manage numbers around fire. - Clear safe access routes maintained. - Spacing maintained between altar fires. - Cooking supervised depending on age.	Med	
Direct contact with flames, hot surfaces or cooking equipment causing burns and scald injuries	All participants		- Leader monitoring throughout activity. - One leader designated to oversee fire use. - Appropriate utensils used. - Buckets of water positioned nearby. - Enhanced first aid kit available.	Med	
Smoke inhalation from burning inappropriate materials causing respiratory distress or irritation	All participants	Only clean, dry wood permitted for burning on the campsite.	- Participants instructed not to introduce materials to fire. - Recovery area designated away from fire. - Participants monitored for symptoms - Leader awareness of participants with respiratory conditions.	Low	
Use of contaminated or treated wood causing food contamination and illness	All participants	Only clean, untreated, dry wood used for cooking.	Leader to check fuel before use.	Low	

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Risk Assessment TDS013 – Altar Fires
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Hazard and Risk	Who might be harmed	Control Measures Already in Place	Additional Actions	Residual Risk Rating	Amendments at Review
Use of accelerants causing rapid, uncontrolled fire leading to burns or flash ignition	All participants	Use of accelerants prohibited.	- Reinforced in safety briefing. - Leader supervision during fire lighting.	Low	
Injury during general activity including cuts, bruises or burns requiring first aid	All participants	-	- Ensure enhanced first aid kit available including burn treatment supplies. - Leaders trained to respond. - Prompt treatment and escalation as required.	Med	
Severe injury or fire incident requiring emergency response such as intense burns or uncontrolled fire	All participants	-	- Activity stopped immediately. - Purple Card procedures followed. - Access to water to extinguish fires. - First aid equipment to be provided.	Low	

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