

## Risk Assessment Bonfires

### How to use this Risk Assessment

This risk assessment document is for Task Leaders. It identifies the common risks associated with bonfires and common measures which can be taken to control these. Task Leaders must use it in conjunction with Bedford Boroughs Site Safety risk assessment and other activity-based generic risk assessments to assist them in their own risk assessment which will determine the contents of the pre-task safety talk and the organisation of activities that take place during the task.

This risk assessment must be used in conjunction with the Site safety assessment and perhaps other task-specific risk assessments as appropriate for the activities being carried out. Consult the Guidance notes for full instructions.

### Generic risk assessment

Review risk assessment and brief personnel on risks and controls before work starts.

PPE required Protective footwear and gloves.

Additional PPE in line with tool manufacturer's instructions or detailed below.

Common hazards Associated with the work activity.	Who is at risk? Public, staff, trainees volunteers.	Risk rating Risk level before controls are in place.	Control measures Measures that must be in place before work is allowed to start.	Residual risk rating Risk remaining after controls are in place
Fire burning out of control	Public & volunteers	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not light fires directly over peat soil or oil shale.</li> <li>• Do not light fires in drought or dry conditions.</li> <li>• Ensure that at least one person is attending the fire at all times.</li> <li>• Do not light fires under trees.</li> <li>• Do not make a fire in strong winds or gusty conditions.</li> <li>• Remove flammable objects from the area.</li> <li>• Ensure adequate means of fighting fire are available (e.g. fire beaters or water) before lighting the fire</li> <li>• Ensure fires are safe before leaving site.</li> <li>• Turn in fire, cover with soil or douse with water where possible at the end of the day.</li> <li>• If hot embers must be left, place warning signs, cordon off and inform client.</li> </ul>	Low

Burn risk from embers and flying debris.	Volunteers	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advise volunteers to wear hats or caps and long sleeves when working near the fire</li> <li>• Advise volunteers to tie back long hair and tuck in loose clothing.</li> <li>• Advise volunteers to work upwind of fire and to watch for sudden changes in wind direction that may bring the fire onto them.</li> <li>• Maintain a clear escape route from the fire, to allow escape from flare-ups and sudden changes in wind direction.</li> <li>• Advise volunteers to keep fire as small as possible to do the job and to add material to fire in small manageable amounts.</li> <li>• Tell volunteers that they must check material before adding it to the fire to exclude dangerous items such as aerosols.</li> </ul>	Low
Smoke	Volunteers	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advise volunteers that they should not work in significant smoke. Tell volunteers that they must not burn any significant quantity of plastics or treated timber.</li> <li>• Site the fire as far as is practical from where people are working and downwind from the working party.</li> <li>• Do not set fires near roads or occupied buildings.</li> <li>• If smoke starts to threaten visibility on a road then allow the fire to go out and start another one elsewhere.</li> <li>• Use hazard signs to exclude people from the area obscured by smoke.</li> </ul>	Low
Serious burns	Volunteers	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tell volunteers that they must keep the area round the fire clear and free from trip hazards.</li> </ul> <p>Tell volunteers that they must not attempt to collapse open structured fires by climbing on top of them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make sure that pitchforks or similar are available for collapsing open structured fires.</li> <li>• Ensure there is an accessible source of water to treat major burns</li> </ul>	Low