

Duke of Edinburgh's Award: GENERIC RISK ASSESSMENT FOR WALKING EXPEDITIONS

ACTIVITY	WHAT ARE THE HAZARDS TO HEALTH & SAFETY	WHAT RISKS DO THEY POSE AND TO WHOM?	RISK LEVEL H/M/L	WHAT PRECAUTIONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO REDUCE THE RISK	RISK LEVEL L/M/H	WHAT FURTHER ACTION IS NEEDED TO REDUCE THE RISK
Walking	Group behind / in front of schedule on route	Young people	M	Briefing group to wait at specific 'check-points' until staff meet them	L-M	Realistic timings for groups. Groups briefed to wait at specific check-points until met by staff.
	Group off course / Lost	Young people	M	Area familiarisation by group. Staff know area used very well	M	Staff familiar with area/routes. Staff able to meet groups en-route
	Group navigation mistake leading to dangerous terrain (streams/crags etc.)	Young people	M	Adequate training: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Navigation - Emergency Procedures - Campcraft 	M	Use of suitable venues for ventures, training in similar environments
	Loss of contact between group / staff / assessor	Young people / worker	M	Escape routes in place Group briefed regarding escape routes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Emergency procedures - contacting staff - how long to wait until calling emergency services. Sealed mobile phone in group with staff contact numbers (must be stressed not to rely on phone) Ease of access to route by staff Staff 'walking' route to sweep for groups Group carrying suitable equipment	L	Groups suitably trained Staff have ability to navigate / group meet staff on route Equipment checks prior to leaving base If telephones are carried group/staff have relevant telephone numbers Group briefed as to when to use them

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Walking	Hypothermia	Young people / workers	M	Encouraging good eating habits prior to activities Suitable protective clothing eg waterproofs etc Full leaders kit including warm drinks, spare clothing, shelter Check weather forecasts, change direction of route if necessary	L	Maintain equipment in good working order Ongoing training re first aid Recognition of early signs
	Presence of water – drowning	Young people / workers	M	Extra vigilance by group, reminder not to walk next to water edges Avoid river crossings	L	Staff supervision where appropriate / check point
	Fall / Tripping	Young people / workers	M	Tight group management Activity Briefing / suitable route choice Instruct group of care in foot placement in places. Remind group of importance of sensible pace and keeping together.	L	Ongoing training Site awareness
	Heatstroke/Exhaustion/sunburn/dehydration/	Young people / workers	M	First Aid kits / training for group Weather forecasts / Suitable equipment for journey/ conditions / Instruct groups on importance of hats / water	M	On going training, first aid, route planning / escape routes / checkpoints Water available at checkpoints
	Sheep ticks – lymes disease	Young people/ workers	L	Advise group to wear long trousers / socks / avoid contact with sheep	L	Monitoring of group / training
	burns/blisters/sprains/ insect bites	Young people / workers	M	First aid kits / training	L	Ongoing training / Monitoring by staff

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	Injury from wild animal	Young people / workers	L	Inform groups to stay away from animals	L	Ongoing training
	Injury from Unsafe structures	Young people / workers	L	Advise group to avoid derelict structures, ensure aware of risks of buildings collapsing	L	Staff awareness of area
	Injury from Road Traffic Accident	Young people/ worker	M	Participants reminded of road safety – care when crossing / walking on the right hand side / outside bend / use of torches etc	M	Continued training / monitoring of staff on specific roads as required
Preparing / cooking meals	Burns from cooking / fires	Young people	M	Training on use of cooking equipment Advise not to start fires	L	Continued training / monitoring
	Tent fire – burns	Young people / workers	M	Participants instructed not to cook or smoke or have anything lit inside or near tents	L	Continued training / monitoring
	Food poisoning	Young people / workers	L	Hands are washing with soap and hot water before handling any food Raw foods are kept separate from cooks foods	L	Ensure knowledge of food requirements of young people re allergies etc Training of group
	Cuts – knives	Young people / workers	L	Remind group to store knives away whilst not in use, with the handle being the first point of contact	L	Training of group
Sleeping Arrangements	Illicit drug taking / alcohol consumption – illness / accident	Young people / workers	M	Group reminded of responsibilities / alcohol / drug use not to be permitted / removal from site where appropriate	L	Staff supervision where appropriate
	Young people moving about at night to meet other young	Young people / workers	M	Adequate supervision during the night Young people reminded of rules	L	Ongoing training Ground rules agreed with

	people – pregnancy / assault etc					young people from the onset Monitoring
	Trespassers on site – theft / assault / abduction	Young people / workers	M	Staff on 'call' overnight, group trained to stick together, awareness of people to contact in event of emergency	L	Staff supervision

Technical Advisor: Kevin Beattie
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