



ADVENTURE PIRATE

AXE AND KNIFE THROWING RISK ASSESSMENT

Axe and knife Throwing	Completed by: James Short – Adventure Pirate LTD
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Required Instructor Competence	• DBS Checked • Experienced and trained in delivering activities • First Aid (min 16 hours) • WATL or Adventure Pirate In-house Training Programme
Ratios	• 1:2

N.B. This Risk Assessment in no way negates the need for continual dynamic risk assessment

Hazard	Harm	People at risk	Measures. (new or existing)	Who is responsible?
Throwing Axes	Cutting self-on the axe Head/knife point	Instructors & All Participants and bystanders.	Axes are not honed to a sharp edge • Regular maintenance/inspection of the axes undertaken to ensure that there are no burrs on the axe/knife to cause a cut. • First aid kit carried • Verbal warning Instructors inform people how to handle axes and knives safely prior to	Adventure Pirate Instructors



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			letting them handle them	
Person entering the throwing area	Struck by axe/knife Cut/bruise.	All	Instruction regarding waiting and throwing areas • "Stop" rule explained and used by all customers. • Rear of area is self-contained so no-one can walk into it.	Adventure Pirate Instructors
Axe/knife bouncing back from target. Missed throws	Impact injury/cut/bruise	All	• Targets are wooden and as such are likely to absorb the impact • Wooden targets are manufactured in such a way as to allow the grain of the wood to open and accept the throwing tool. Participants briefed to be light on their feet and watch and move away from any bounce backs	Adventure Pirate Instructors
Observer hit by Axe/Knife	Impact injury/cut/bruise	All	Instructions regarding the direction of axes/knives to be thrown. Only throw at targets • Participants will be warned if their behaviour become dangerous and may be removed from the activity if they continue to ack in an unsafe manner • Specific waiting area- only two people	Adventure Pirate Instructors



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			to throw at a time. • Stop rule used if instructors notice a person stepping onto the range, or comes past the waiting line. • Anyone not throwing must stand/sit in the waiting area- even if they are not involved in the activity.	
Target falling on participant when retrieving axes	Bruising/crush injuries	All staff and participants	Targets are hung up and secured on chains. Mobile target is secured to a tripod stand. • Dynamic assessment made of wind conditions- Check that targets won't be blown over. • Demonstration and explanation of how to remove axes and knives from targets	Adventure Pirate Instructors
Splintered/damaged axe shaft	Cuts/splinters to participants' hands	All staff and participants	Regular and ongoing inspection. Brief participants to let the instructor know if they feel any sharp edges on handles. • Use of sandpaper/tape to cover splintered handles • Handles replaced if cannot be repaired (spare handles included in kit) • First aid kit carried	



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Struck by axe during throwing	Impact injury, cut or bruise	All staff and participants	Maximum of two participants throwing at a time • Sufficient space between participants to avoid being struck • Instructor to stand at side or behind of throwers • Sufficient distance between throwing line and waiting area in accordance with WATL guidelines • Correct efficient and controlled throwing technique instructed and demonstrated. Only collect axes on the command "Clear to Collect" from the instructor. • Instructor to be watchful of dangerous technique and intervene immediately if unsafe.	Adventure Pirate Instructors
Cold, wet windy day. Hot, sunny day Inappropriate clothing	Difficulty controlling body temperature (Hyperthermia/Hypothermia)	Instructors & All Participants/Group Leaders	Appropriate clothing to be worn / carried. Appropriate amounts / type of food and drink should be carried dependent on weather conditions, terrain etc. Appropriate group safety equipment to be at range	Adventure Pirate Instructors
Maintenance &	Malfunction of equipment	Young persons	Equipment including axes/knives to be	Adventure Pirate



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security of equipment	causing injury.	and adults participating. Members of the public	kept in secure, lockable storage. Axes/knives to be inspected and Maintained/sharpened by competent person on regular basis and prior to use. Damaged axes/knives to be taken out of use immediately and either repaired or destroyed immediately Damaged/broken axes and knives must not be kept in the same storage as ones in use.	Instructors
Transporting Equipment	Slip/trips/falls Cuts/bruises Broken bones Collision with other people/object Manual Handling injuries	Young persons and adults participating. Instructors Members of the public	Persons transporting equipment between secure store and range must be a competent instructor. Axes/knives must remain in box whilst being transported. Large axes must be carried in a safe manner. Axes/knives must not be transported through crowds of people Do not attempt to carry more than capable.	Adventure Pirate Instructors
Leaving equipment unattended	Theft People throwing axes and knives un-supervised causing Injury/Death	Young persons and adults participating. Instructors.	Axes and knives to be locked away securely whilst not in use. Participants and axes/knives must never be left unattended.	Adventure Pirate Instructors



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		Members of the public		
		Young persons and adults		Adventure Pirate Instructors
Unacceptable Range setup -	Injury to members of the public entering the range Injury to members of the public outside the range.	Young persons and adults participating. Instructors. Members of the public	Instructor to consider surroundings carefully before erecting range. The range is to conform to WATL guidelines with regards safe distances and back stops where possible.	Adventure Pirate Instructors

Mobile Axe Throwing Trailer

Hazard	Harm	People at risk	Measures. (new or existing)	Who is responsible?
Trailer Setup and Stability Hazard: Trailer tipping or becoming unstable	Falls, Crush injuries	Staff, Participants, Public	Trailer must be set on stable, level ground. Wheel chocks and stabilizers used. Regular inspections before each use.	Adventure Pirate Instructors
Entry and Exit of the	Sprains, Fractures	Participants, Staff	Anti-slip mats used on	Adventure Pirate



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Trailer Hazard: Slip, Trip, or Fall			entry/exit points. Handrails installed where applicable. Clear briefing on safe movement.	Manager
Axe Rebounds within the Trailer Hazard: Axe bouncing off enclosed walls	Impact injuries, Cuts	Participants, Staff	Targets positioned with adequate space to reduce risk. Protective barriers used to minimize bounce-backs. Participants briefed on movement and reaction techniques.	Adventure Pirate Instructors
Overcrowding on the Trailer Hazard: Increased risk of accidents	Collisions, Falls	Participants, Staff	Strict capacity limits enforced - Maximum of two participants and one instructor on the trailer at one time Clear queuing and waiting area marked. Instructors monitor and control crowding.	Adventure Pirate Instructors
Weather Conditions Impacting the Trailer	Trailer movement, Falling equipment	Participants, Staff	Trailer stability checked before use.	Adventure Pirate Instructors



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Hazard: Strong winds causing instability			Sessions postponed in severe weather	
Fire Hazards (from Trailer Wiring or External Sources) Hazard: Electrical fire or wood ignition	Burns, Smoke inhalation	Participants, Staff	Regular electrical safety checks. No smoking policy enforced near the trailer.	Adventure Pirate Staff

Control Measures

1. Setup:

- The arena must be placed on a flat, stable surface.
- All barriers and safety nets must be securely installed.

2. Training and Briefing:

- All participants must receive a safety briefing before throwing.
- Staff trained in first aid and emergency procedures must be present.

3. Participant Requirements:

- Minimum age limit (e.g., 18+ or parental consent for minors).
- Participants must wear closed-toe shoes and appropriate attire.

4. Supervision:

- At least one trained staff member present per active session.
- Continuous monitoring of participants' behavior and adherence to safety rules.



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5. Emergency Preparedness:

- First aid kit available on-site.
- Emergency contact numbers and evacuation plan clearly displayed.

6. Trailer Setup: Trailer placed on flat ground with secure barriers and stabilizers.

Major First Aid Procedure:

Call 999 for help

Instructor in charge starts first aid on casualty

One assistant removes other participants from scene

Inform party organiser of incident

Record incident

Emergency telephone number: 07920162549

Emergency services: 999/221

Nearest A&E: Poole General Hospital, Longfleet Rd, Poole BH15 2JB. Tel: 01202 665511

The Royal Bournemouth General Hospital, Castle Lane East, Bournemouth, Dorset. BH7 7DW [Tel:01202 303626](tel:01202303626)