**1ST BURGHFIELD AND SULHAMSTEAD SCOUT GROUP**

**Health & Safety Policy**

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## General statement of policy

It is the policy of The Scout Association to provide Scouting in a safe manner without risk to health, so far as is reasonably practicable. 1st Burghfield and Sulhampstead Scout group will adhere to the following Health and Safety Policy, so far as is reasonably practicable, in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 (the Act). This applies equally to everybody whether they be members, volunteers, contractors or visitors (all persons).

It is the responsibility of all those involved in Scouting to seek, so far as is reasonably practicable, to ensure that:

1. all activities are conducted in a safe manner minimising risk to the health of participants
2. the provision and maintenance of equipment and buildings for Members and others is safe and risks are minimised and controlled.
3. information, instruction, training and supervision is provided with the object of ensuring the health and safety of all those involved in Scouting activities or who may be affected by them
4. appropriate arrangements are made to ensure safety and the reduced risks to health in connection with the use, transport, storage and handling of equipment, and substances which are inherently or potentially dangerous.
5. To maintain the Scout hut under the executive committee’s control in a safe and minimising risks as far as possible. It will also ensure that all access and egress within the workplace are safe.
6. To communicate the groups’s commitment to safety and to provide information, instruction, training and supervision

## General Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of all persons attending the Group‘s premises to ensure that they do not endanger the health and safety of others. Any incident leading to actual or potential injury or health hazard which could have been prevented by risk assessment and its resulting controls will be regarded as a breach of the Health and Safety Procedures.

All persons have the responsibility to co-operate in achieving a healthy and safe environment and to take reasonable care of themselves and others. Additionally, all persons should aim to achieve the same standards of Health and Safety when undertaking any business for and on behalf of the Scout Association.

All contractors working for the Group are not only required to meet their own company’s health and safety policy and procedures but any additional local requirements stipulated by this policy.

Members and contractors are to report and record all incidents, near misses or defects. The Executive Committee will regularly review these reports with an aim to taking corrective action as necessary.

## Responsible Officer and subsequent responsibilities

All leaders and adult volunteers are responsible for Health and Safety provisions, including the following:

1. Ensuring that all children responsible to them are aware of potential hazards and that suitable controls are in place.
2. Ensuring that all persons understand and comply with the operational guidelines for their area.
3. Identifying and monitoring training needs and ensuring appropriate instruction, training and supervision is received.
4. Ensuring all accidents and incidents are reported. Fatal accidents, major injury accidents/conditions and dangerous occurrences must be reported by the quickest possible means no later than 5 days of the accident or occurrence. Please report to Chairman and GSL (how?)
5. Ensuring all health and safety issues are reported.

Please refer to the Scout Assoication website for information on safety, health and life issues, and child protection: <http://members.scouts.org.uk/supportresources/search/?cat=299>

## Individual responsibilities

All members, contractors, volunteers’ staff have a duty to conditions that could cause harm to persons, property, or the environment.

## Administrative arrangements

### Reporting of accidents and dangerous occurances

It is not possible to give an absolute ruling on what should be reported to Scout Insurance Services and what need not be. If in doubt, telephone the scout information centre in the first instance on 0345 300 1818 and seek advice. However, the factsheet on the Scout Association website below should give a general guide.

<http://members.scouts.org.uk/supportresources/2356/reporting-accidents?cat=299,300&moduleID=10>

### Fire Safety & First Aid

A fire evacuation procedure for the Scout Hut is conveyed to all persons attending the site.

All members have a duty to report any potential fire hazards to their leaders immediately and conduct procedures in way to minimise the risk of fire. This involves keeping combustible materials separate from sources of ignition and avoiding unnecessary accumulation of combustible materials.

All leaders are responsible for keeping all areas safe from fire and ensuring that their members are aware of emergency evacuation procedures.

Emergency Exits and corridors must never be locked, blocked, or used as storage space.

A first aid supply is provided at all premises.

1. Manual Handling

Persons should not attempt to lift or move a load which is too heavy or awkward to manage comfortably. Wherever reasonably practicable, the lifting and moving of objects should be undertaken using mechanical devices. Appropriate training should be given for persons who regularly undertake manual handling tasks.

### Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH)

Where any substance used is hazardous, material data sheets must be available and any controls (e.g. storage and handling) recommended by them, for the use of the substance must be in place. E.g. elsan blue, meths

### Environment

It is the responsibility of all persons to ensure that all areas are kept tidy and free from obstructions or trip hazards. They also have a duty to report any faults or defects identified.

### Electricity

The Group will comply with the law applying to all electrical systems both fixed and portable and ensure that all electrical installations and appliances are inspected at regular intervals to ensure their safety.

All persons have the responsibility to visually inspect all portable appliances before they use them and to report any defects immediately.

### Alchol and drug abuse

The consumption of any form of illegal drugs on the premises is expressly forbidden and may result in prosecution. The consumption of alcohol is not allowed apart from those times when specific permission has been granted (e.g. executive meetings and other celebratory occasions) by the chairman and GSL.

### Smoking

Smoking in prohibited in all areas Combustible materials must never be stored or allowed to accumulate in areas where smoking is permitted.

## Lone working

1. **Definition:** Any situation in which someone works at Scout Hut premises without a colleague nearby; or when someone is working out of sight or earshot of another colleague

Wherever possible eliminate the need to work/ be in attendance alone

1. **Responsibilities:** All volunteers/members/contractors need to take reasonable care of their own personal safety, including not putting themselves into a situation that could compromise their safety

All volunteers/members/contractors who have a requirement to regularly work alone (strongly advised against by the Scout Group) are responsible for completing a risk assessment and reporting incidents in the correct manner via the online accident book logging system, details of the QR code can be found with the Scout Hut

If you have concern about your any aspect of Health and Safety please contact: gsl@1stbands.org

It is expected that all contractors provide evidence of their own liability insurance before undertaking any work. Please send a copy to chair@1stbands.org

## Policy Review

This Policy will be reviewed annually.

**Version Control**

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