

Risk Assessment

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| Name of activity/ event/ location | Air rifle shooting at Cox wood indoor risk assessment using qualified instructor (NSRA) and Cox wood Rifles | Date of risk assessment | 12/03/2025 <i>Review due: 12/03/2026</i> | Name of who undertook this risk assessment | Cox Wood Team have prepared this as an example to help you prepare your own risk assessment. |
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| Hazard Identified? / Risks from it? | Who is at risk? | How are the risks already controlled? What extra controls are needed? | What has changed that needs to be thought about and controlled? |
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| <i>Hazard – something that may cause harm or damage. Risk – the chance of it happening.</i> | Young people, Leaders, Visitors? | <i>Controls – Ways of making the activity safer by removing or reducing the risk from it. For example - you might use a different piece of equipment or you might change the way the activity is carried out.</i> | Keep checking throughout the activity in case you need to change it...or even stop it! This is a great place to add comments which will be used as part of the review. |
| Hazard - Misuse of air rifle Risk - injury/death | All | Activity supervised at all times by qualified instructor (NSRA) to ensure the correct use of the equipment and rules are followed. Instruction and safety briefing given and understood by participants before the activity takes place. | Horseplay - activity to cease if participants are unmanageable. |
| Hazard - Impact from pellet Risk - injury/death | All | Instructor gives clear guidance on the use of air rifles, safety briefing and supervises all activity having ensured participants have understood the briefing. All participants to wear protective goggles when on the shooting line/handling rifles. Access to the range is controlled by the instructor. There is a barrier (solid and rope) between the shooting line and the targets. Access to pellets is controlled by the instructor (5 pellets to be given out per participant). When activity has started, door to be kept locked, red light outside door indicates that activity is in place. No further entry to range to be permitted once activity has commenced. Following completion of shooting round, safety lines to be inserted into rifles indicating that rifle has no pellet in situ | |
| Hazard - air rifles being stored loaded Risk - injury/death | All | Instructor to inspect and ensure air rifles are emptied at the end of the session. Rifles to be stored in broken position and locked away in cabinet. | |

Additional information can be found in the **Safety Checklist for Leaders** and other information at scouts.org.uk/safety

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| Hazard - Loading the rifle Risk - injury/death | All | Clear instructions to be given that when loading the rifle the barrel must be pointing towards the targets/fingers must not be on the trigger. Instructor to supervise the loading. | |
| Hazard - equipment failure Risk - injury/death | All | Instructor to inspect rifles before session. Any damaged or faulty equipment to be withdrawn. All issues to be reported to the manager. Damaged or faulty equipment to be repaired by suitably qualified person | |
| Hazard - slips and trips Risk - injury | Participants | Instructor to inspect range prior to activity. Rope to be kept in closed position when shooting and removed by instructor when safe to do so and participants can collect their targets. Participants to be reminded to walk in a controlled manner when changing targets, | |
| Hazard - crushed fingers Risk - injury | Participants | Instructor to advise on correct position for hands when loading rifle and to watch that advice followed. | |
| Hazard - overshots and side shots Risk - injury/death | All | Instructor to give clear instructions on direction of shooting. Physical barriers (curtain) behind targets to stop stray pellets | |
| Hazard - Unauthorised use Risk - Injury/death | All | Activity supervised at all times Pellets to be locked away when not being used. | |
| Hazard - using lead pellets Risk - injury/death | All | Full safety briefing Hands to be washed thoroughly after activity | |
| Hazard - distractions from outside the range Risk - injury/death | All | Leader available to ensure waiting participants remain seated and to keep a calm environment. Another leader may be required to assist with coaching participants. | |