

TOOLS - KNIFE

Type

Fixed-blade knives are preferable over folding knives. Folding blades present a chance of an accident when folding the blade and have a weak point at the hinge making them more likely to break. Folding knives also hold dirt and consequently potentially water both of which will damage the folding mechanism. Size of the knife should be considered. Knives with smaller blades, smaller handles and even rounded blade ends are available and may be a sensible choice for small children.

How to use it safely

- Knives are tools not toys
- Maintain safe distance - Always use tools at a distance of arms' length and one tool's length away from other people. The 'Circle of Safety'.
- Establish expected behaviour - Anyone misusing a tool intentionally can be required to put down the tool and step away, until they are ready to join in appropriately.
- Ensure proper demonstration and supervision (example knife talk further down).
- Keep the blade facing away from you on the outside of your body, keeping wood between you and the knife.
- No glove on tool hand; you can choose to have a well-fitting glove on non-knife hand or to not have one (if using gloves and it doesn't fit properly then it's safer to not use one)
- Sheath immediately after use – may require adults to do this depending on age or ability.
- Keep in pocket or designated place.

Passing

Holding sheathed part, offer handle to person.

Walking

When walking, place blade in sheath (hearing a click) place in pocket or walk holding sheath.

Cleaning

On site, use a dry paint brush to brush off sawdust etc. Use cloth and gun oil/ WD40/sewing machine oil to ensure all dirt and moisture is off the blade. Use long stick with cloth to wipe out any debris inside the sheath.

Example Tool Talk for a Knife. Please note I never personally use this whole talk. I always focus on 3 top safety things to get them started. Then as time goes on I introduce the other safety considerations.

This is a knife. This is the handle, and this is the sheath. When I am using my knife, I take it out of the sheath like this. This is the blade, and this is the cutting edge. When I am not using my knife, I put it back in the sheath like this. I stand with my knife like this and I walk with my knife like this. I pass my knife like this.

When I am using my knife, I use it two arms and a tool length away from everyone (circle of safety) I use it for cutting string, whittling, carving and I use it to the side of my body and away from me. And when I am using my knife, I have a glove on my helper hand.

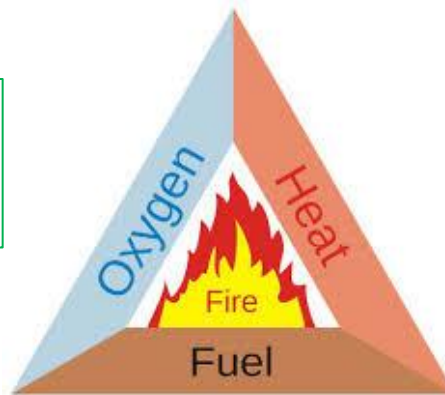
When I am not using my knife, I place the knife on the group with the handle facing out and the blade facing in. And when I am finished with my knife, I put it back in the toolbox or designated area.

FIRE

Is the fire permanent or temporary?

WHAT A FIRE NEEDS:

Oxygen – Teepee fire (wood stacked up as a triangle), log cabin fire (wood stacked up in squares)



Heat – Matches, lighter, flint

Fuel – Tinder (dry leaves, pine needles, paper, lint, cotton balls), Kindling (twigs, sticks, small branches), chopped wood (Firewood – thicker than

Safety Considerations:

- Check there are no branches above
- Consider the strength of the wind and if it is safe to have a fire
- If there is a fire ban and you don't have a permit you will need to comply
- Even if there is no fire ban but the conditions don't feel safe then don't lite a fire
- Have access to water to put out the fire (at least 10lt)
- Fireproof gloves and a fire blanket are a great idea
- The fire circle is not a play space
- Is it a permanent or non-permanent fire?
- Dig down to dirt if a temporary fire – no sticks or leaves in the surrounding area
- If permanent, what guidelines do you want to have for being around the fire circle (e.g. children kneel on one knee by fire, everyone walks around the outside, asks permission to enter the immediate fire area, The seating circle should be at least 2m back from the fire pit)
- If non-permanent, how do people engage with the fire, what are the guidelines
- Keep fires small – they don't need to be big to enjoy or to cook on
- Have a first-aid kit easily accessible and make sure you or one of the staff are confident in dealing with the risks of a fire burn
- Secure loose clothing at the fire
- Cool ashes and coals completely (you should be able to touch and pick them up)
- Never use any kind of accelerant