

What could go wrong in this picture?

EXIT



Scouter's Tips

Scouters know what to do when something doesn't go quite right, and how to report incidents. Why are incident reports so important? Why do we as Scouters report every injury? Every incident submitted in Scouting across the country is tracked and categorized to help us be better prepared to predict and prevent common incidents from reoccurring.

Myth:

Submitting Incident reports will get you in trouble.

Fact:

The culture of safety within Scouts Canada is supported by data (those handy incident reports) which are reported after an incident or near miss.

Submitting incident reports won't get you in trouble—you'll be helping strengthen the culture of safety!

The goal of Safety Week will be to highlight some trends from previous years and provide some guidance, tips, best practices, and activities to engage youth to be involved in the planning for the upcoming seasons' adventures. After all, no Adventure is fun if someone gets hurt.

Review:

- Break into Lairs or Lodges and give each patrol leader a copy of the illustration.
- Give the youth enough time to identify any behaviours or risks they can identify. Perhaps ask an open question of what do you think could go wrong in this picture?
- How many things were you able to identify in the image?

Here are a few things to discuss with youth as you review the activity

- Did you notice the first aid kit missing on the wall? Make sure youth know the location of the first aid kit and you have qualified individuals that know how to use it.
- What else did youth think should have been on the wall that was not in the scene?

Trips and falls:

Cluttered meeting spaces present potential for tripping during indoor activity. Perhaps before your meeting or changing activities youth can work together in a "20 Second Tidy" and ensure anything that could get in the way is stored out of the way and together in an organized location.

Knife safety:

Supervision

Did your youth identify that neither one of the Scouters were supervising the two youth on the right? Most preventable knife incidents happen simply because youth new to working with a knife haven't developed the skills yet. It's important that when practicing knife skills adequate supervision is always focused on the task at hand.

The right tool for the right task

Which knife is more appropriate for introducing knife skills? A locking blade (left) or a non-locking blade (right). Folding the blade of a knife can be tricky, make sure that youth know the risks of a hinged blade, and have the proper strength, dexterity and technique to do so safely. We have a [safety tip](#) on Scouts.ca/Safety explaining the different knives and which is the best to use when.

Personal protective equipment

For a small investment in your group or youth personal gear, a "Cut Glove" is a basic tool that provides a lot of protection. These gloves are made of material that resist the sharp edge of a blade. Whether you're learning to use a knife for the first time or preparing meals in the kitchen,

gloves are a great last line of defense to prevent injury from happening.

The Blood Zone

Establish a clear area around you when you plan to use a knife. This is often referred to as the "Blood Zone". Sweep your extended arm in a circle around you to establish the "blood zone". *Do not swing an open blade when announcing a blood zone!*

Have youth identify who is in their "blood zone" but also recognize when they are in someone else's "blood zone".

Body posture

Knife activities should be done when seated, this gives better control and provides stability. Space chairs in a configuration that is easily supervised and have chairs far enough apart so that everyone can maintain a safe "blood zone".

Knife technique

Did the youth notice that the example on the right they were drawing the knife towards themselves? Knives should always be drawn away from yourself, your hands, legs, or any other body part, but remember to inspect your blood zone for intruders.

Knot my problem

In the example on the right, the piece of wood the youth is learning on has a significant knot in the wood. Knots are harder parts of the wood where a twig or a branch was growing from. Knots need more strength and coordination to process, for Scouts learning the basics its best to inspect the wood and provide an easier material for youth to learn on, soft woods or even soap are great starter materials.

Did anyone notice the youth in sock feet?

Footwear not only prevents slipping and sliding on smooth floors but also protects your feet from stubbed toes and getting struck by falling or dropping objects.