



# SCOUT AXE AND SAW PERMIT



## Axe Risks

- Cuts
- Stabbing
- Amputation
- Wound Infection

## Axe Types

- Hatchet . . . includes all small axes (e.g. Hunters Axes, Belt Axes and Pack Axes)
- Felling Axes . . . used to chop down trees
- Limbing Axes . . . used to limb a tree
- Splitting Axes . . . used to split wood for a fire
- Splitting Mauls . . . usually a very heavy Splitting Axe, often look like a combination axe and sledge hammer

## Axe Materials

- Most axes are made of carbon steel. Carbon steel can rust, but if well cared for it will develop a patina. Carbon steel is easier to sharpen and holds a keen edge. Carbon steel is very good at producing sparks with a flint for fire starting
- Very few axes are made from stainless steel. Stainless steel is easier to care for, but can still rust if not cared for. Usually stainless steel is more difficult to sharpen well and unless type 303 is not good for producing sparks with a flint for fire starting

## Axe Storage

- Store axes in a sheath when possible
- NEVER carry an unsheathed knife
- Buried in a stump is permissible for a short period of time (e.g. a lunch break)
- A knife can also be stored for a short period of time (e.g. a lunch break) in a bucket of water. This can help keep the handle swelled so that the axe head does not become loose and fall off

## Axe Use

- Ensure that your BLOOD CIRCLE is clear before starting
- A sharp axe is LESS DANGEROUS than a dull axe
- For general axe safety, always cut away from yourself
- Use the right tool for the job, a big axe for a big job . . . a small axe for a small job
- Most axe injuries will be to your foot or leg . . . these wounds are serious injuries and a wound to the thigh can be life threatening
- Small hatchets are often used one handed. You must be careful when holding a piece of wood with the other hand that you do not miss the wood and hit yourself with the axe

## Axe Maintenance

- Make sure that a axe is clean BEFORE it is put away, back in it's sheath
- A sharp axe is LESS DANGEROUS than a dull axe
- An axe that has lost it's keen edge can be re-honed using a fine stone or ceramic sharpener and the fine burr edge removed with a leather strop
- A dull axe will need to have a new cutting edge established before it can be honed and stropped



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## Axe Sharpening

- It is EXTREMELY important that the sharpening stone be held at the correct angle against the axe, during the entire sharpening stroke. Failure to maintain the correct angle will cause premature wear of the axe edge and may actually erase the cutting edge . . . this might make the axe useless for future use or require the axe to be professionally re-sharpened
- Axe sharpening requires a series of steps as you create a new cutting edge by using progressively finer cutting stones
  - o The first stage uses a coarse (rough) stone or a metal file is to take away the bulk of the metal and create a basic axe edge (NOTE: sharpening stones for axes look like a hockey puck with a finger groove around the edge so that you can keep your fingers away from the sharp edge)
  - o The second stage uses a medium stone or a draw file technique to create a better edge and at the same time remove the coarse (rough) grooves that the first stage stone made
- Different types of sharpening stones require different types of lubricant
  - o Wet stones require a little bit of water and the stone needs to be kept wet during the entire sharpening process, then wiped dry before being put away
  - o Oil stones require only a few drops of oil and should be kept oily during the entire sharpening process, then wiped dry before being put away
  - o Ceramic stones are used without lubricant unless their instructions for use state otherwise

## Consequences of breaking the rules

- 1st suspension requires you to re-qualify after 1 month
- Second offence in a year results in suspension for one year of privilege
- Serious cases will be reviewed by leaders, parent and watch leader.

## When can I use an axe at scouts?

- When Skipper asks you to use one usually in a camp situation for fire prep.

I agree to the rules of axe use while I am in the Squamish Scout Troop, I have read and understand the rules and recommendations above and I am aware of the consequences of miss-use of axes.

Scout name:- \_\_\_\_\_ Date:- \_\_\_\_\_ Signature:- \_\_\_\_\_

Leader name:- \_\_\_\_\_ Date:- \_\_\_\_\_ Signature:- \_\_\_\_\_

Parent name:- \_\_\_\_\_ Date:- \_\_\_\_\_ Signature:- \_\_\_\_\_



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