

Axe Safety

This resource can help with the following Backwoods areas:

- Stage 1: I know how to use hand tools safely.
- Stage 2: I can use hand tools correctly.
- Stage 3: I can use camp tools safely on camp.
- Stage 5: I know how to use and care for tools (of all kinds) safely.

The Axe is probably the most dangerous tools that use in the wood and should be used with great care.

Use an axe in a clear area. A circle of at least a full arm's length and two axe lengths in all directions should be clear of any obstruction.

Also remember to check above you to ensure that there are NO obstructions. You should also ensure that NO items of clothing can interfere with your ability to use the Axe, such as neckerchiefs, scarves, and lanyards. Wear boots, instead of soft shoes, to protect your feet.



Carrying an Axe

The Axe should be carried with the sheath on it, against your side with the Blade facing away.



Passing an Axe

The safest method of passing an Axe is to safely place it against a tree and for the other person to pick it up.



Another method of passing the Axe is to push the Axe out to your front with the blade facing away into a neutral area, away from both persons.



The person receiving the Axe takes a grip and acknowledges that they have done so, and the Axe is released.



Using an Axe

When using an Axe, place the wood at the back of the chopping block so that if the wood is missed by the Axe, it may lodge itself safely into the chopping block.



Always use a wide stance so if the Axe misses the wood and the chopping block it will pass safely into the open space between your stance.



When we are finished with the Axe, we need to leave it in a safe area where everyone knows where it is located. Ideally this would be the Patrol Box but in the Backwoods environment, this might be the Trunk of a Tree or the Chopping Block.



Axe Safety Tips:

- Preparation, Preparation, Preparation: Read over this card every before you use an axe. This will ensure you become more competent in the 'Safe Use' axes.
- Never use an axe when you are tired or in the Dark. Fatigue leads to accidents – Headtorches can 'fool' our perception of what we are looking at – resulting in accidents....
- Always check that the axe is sharp. A blunt Axe is more dangerous than a sharp one.