

This risk assessment relates only to the *generic* features of a common activity; it does not cover those *specific* to a location or group. It therefore must not be used without completing the local review, making additions as necessary to take account of local circumstances. However, such a local review need not be timeconsuming. Use the box at the bottom to create the local review, or add extra pages as necessary. **SEE ACCOMPANYING SAFETY NOTES**

ACTIVITY ASSESSED		ASSESSOR	ASSESSMENT DATE
34. Building leaky dams in shallow streams		Steve Bolsover	5 th June 2026
HAZARD potential for harm	RISK LEVEL	PRECAUTIONS to remove hazard or reduce risk level. One precaution may tackle several hazards.	
Leptospirosis	M	This disease may not be very common but can have severe effects, in rarer cases death. If water contaminated with rats or cows urine gets into cuts, open wounds or sores the Weills or Hardjo varieties of Leptospirosis can result. All workers in areas likely to be soiled by rat/cow urine, eg. urban stream banks/ farms should avoid water contact and wash thoroughly as soon as possible after visiting the site. They must not eat, drink or smoke until they have washed. If hand sanitizer is available it can be used during and after the work but this does not remove the need to wash hands thoroughly before eating, drinking or smoking.	
Cuts from bowsaws	M	Volunteers will be shown how to carry and use bowsaws safely: Bowsaws will be carried to the site with the blade guard in place. Removal and replacement of the guard will be done slowly and carefully, this is when the majority of minor injuries occur. Once the guard is removed the bowsaw will be carried with the blade pointing down, walk slowly to avoid tripping. When cutting wood always wear a thick rigger-type glove in the hand that is not holding the saw.	
Injuries from loppers	M	Volunteers will be shown how to carry and use loppers safely: Loppers will be carried with the hand on the lower handle to make sure that they cannot flip open revealing the blade.	
Injury from hammers	M	To create the uprights for leaky dams, wooden posts are driven in by hitting the top with a hammer or mallet while a second volunteer holds the post upright. The volunteer holding the hammer or mallet must not wear any gloves since the grip could slip or the glove slip off allowing the hammer to fly off; the hammer must be held in bare hands. The volunteer holding the post must wear thick rigger-type gloves and keep their head well back out of the way of the hammer or mallet.	
RISKS AND PRECAUTIONS SPECIFIC TO THE SITE OR DAY			
ASSESSOR			
ASSESSMENT DATE			
APPLICABLE DATES (This is likely either to be one specific day, or “until further notice”.)			

Risk level: L = Low, M = Medium, H = High

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RESTRICTIONS		
This risk assessment only applies to shallow streams where the water depth is less than 10cm. The person organizing the work should emphasize that working in the streambed means that the footing may be less secure than when working on dry land; volunteers should move carefully especially when carrying or using bowsaws or loppers.		
PREVENTATIVE MEASURES		
PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT		
Rigger type gloves should be worn where appropriate, in particular while using a bowsaw a glove should be worn on the hand not holding the saw; the other hand can be gloved too as desired. The volunteer holding a post as it is hammered in must wear heavy rigger style gloves on both hands; in contrast the volunteer using the hammer or mallet must not wear gloves.		
TRAINING		
Volunteers will be shown how to use loppers, bowsaws and hammer/mallets safely.		
MONITORING		
INFORMATION		

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