



RISK ASSESSMENT FOR ASSOCIATION APIARY

RISK	WHO WHAT AFFECTED	MITIGATION
Low Risk, Low Impact		
Personal risk to Social Members	Members who are registered as Social Members only and who do not have full membership with any other branch	Do not allow Social Members to take part in inspections of colonies
Risk of bee stings in areas near apiary	Neighbours, those working or playing nearby	Ensure hives are properly sited away from work or play areas. Ensure the flight path is not over a footpath, access route or neighbouring garden. Make sure bees are encouraged to fly up and over a hedge or fence. Position clear warning signage near the apiary.
Risk of swarms	Everyone	Should the bees swarm contact the Apiary Manager. If not on site contact details can be found on the notice board in the tea room.
Low Risk, High Impact		
Risk of anaphylactic shock following a bee sting	Persons <u>known to be at risk</u> can be identified through the signing in book in the tea room. Everyone.	Staff and beekeepers to be made aware of risk. Emergency procedure to be displayed clearly on the notice board in the tea room which includes the exact location of the Apiary plus What3Words. Location of the emergency procedure notice and first aid kit to be made clear at the start of each session together with the name of the Person in Charge for that day. Mobile phone or other communications to be available during apiary meeting to call Ambulance Service via 999. If any member is stung during a meeting, the Person in Charge should be notified immediately and the person stung should be taken away from the hives and monitored by another member for 10 mins. Any incident should be recorded in the Accident Book to be found on the table beneath the notice board in the tea room.

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Risk of fall or injury if collecting a swarm from a height or difficult location	Apiary Manager. Any member.	Assess the situation carefully before starting collection. Assemble appropriate equipment. Do not work at height alone. Have means of contacting emergency services to hand. Check phone signal. Ensure any ladder is securely placed. Contact the committee if you are not certain that you can safely handle the situation.
Medium Risk, Low Impact		
Risk of bee stings during inspections	All involved in beekeeping activities.	Full briefing delivered before inspection. PPE to be worn correctly and checked by Person in Charge before inspection commences. Ensure the approach route to the hive is away from bee flight paths and remind members not to stand in front of the hive. Any incident should be recorded in the Accident Book.
Maintenance in the apiary	Those using power tools, cutting grass, maintaining hives or stands or tree trimming	Goggles to be worn. Bee suit to be worn (if required). Ear defenders and boots to be worn depending on tools used. No power tools to be used when working alone.
Medium Risk, High Impact		
Slips, trips and falls	Everyone	On approach to the apiary is a sign alerting members that the ground is uneven.
Back injuries from lifting hives	Everyone	Hive stands at our apiary are made and used to avoid the need to lift hives. In exceptional circumstances where a hive needs to be moved use this link to learn the correct lifting techniques to use https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YPsZ7RZLYsM
Risk of injury or harm when working alone ie on beekeeping husbandry	Beekeepers. Accident or sting.	Not recommended to work alone. At least 2 persons to be present at all times except for short periods (eg toilet break)
High Risk, Low Impact		
Misuse of chemicals (bee disease treatments if used), masonry paint etc. Use of chemicals (bee disease treatments)	Beekeepers	Chemicals to be stored securely in a metal container in Association shed as per instructions on the chemical container. PPE to be worn when using chemicals - gloves, mask, goggles. Disposal of used chemicals and treatments to be done safely and as per product instructions. All chemicals to be washed off from skin if contact is made. Any incident should be recorded in the Accident Book.
Cleaning and maintaining equipment. Using blow torches or similar equipment. Using sharp tools. Using chemicals eg wood	Persons involved in activity	Full briefing delivered before commencing the activity. Equipment must be safety tested and properly maintained.

stain/protector		Only responsible adults to use blow torches or similar equipment. Use chemicals in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
Wax melting, candle or soap making. Risk of injury, burns and scolding. Risk of fire	Those involved in activity	Full briefing to be delivered before commencement of the activity. Activity to be supervised. Dynamic Risk Assessment to be provided by the person running the activity. Any injury to be recorded in the Accident Book which will be taken to the event.
High Risk, Medium Impact		
Fire risk associated with lighting and using the smoker. Risk of burns or smoke inhalation.	Beekeepers, property and others	Smokers should not be lit whilst the member's hood is down or when wearing disposable gloves. Exercise care when using a lighted smoker particularly during long dry spells. Place the smoker on a hard level surface when not in use. Ensure the smoker is properly extinguished after use and contents emptied safely after use on the adjacent bonfire site. Smoker to be stored in a metal container in the association shed. Ensure water for use in an emergency is available on site. Any injuries to be recorded in the Accident Book.
High Risk, High Impact		
Risk of burns or fire from blow torch during hive maintenance	Beekeeper	Children are only permitted to watch the cleaning of equipment with a blow torch from a safe distance. Safety equipment to be worn by the beekeeper. Great care to be taken. No lone working and emergency assistance readily available. Any injuries to be recorded in the Accident Book.

A copy of this Risk Assessment will be sent to each member on the day they renew their membership to the Norwich & District Beekeepers Association on an annual basis.

A copy of this Risk Assessment will be on display on the notice board in the apiary tea room.

August 2024