

Safety in Scouting in Berkshire



Electrical Safety

Electricity can kill or severely injure people and cause damage to property through fire. Every year many accidents and injuries involving electric shock or burns are reported. Most of these accidents can be avoided by careful planning and straightforward precautions.

Further information is available via The Scout Association website [Electricity | Scouts](#)

The main hazards are:

- contact with live parts causing shock and burns – normal mains voltage, 230 volts AC, can kill;
- faults which could cause fire;
- fire or explosion where electricity could be the source of ignition in a potentially flammable or explosive atmosphere.

The risk of injury from electricity is strongly linked to where and how it is used. The risks are greatest in harsh conditions, for example:

- in wet surroundings – unsuitable equipment can easily become live and can make its surroundings live;
- outdoors – equipment may not only become wet but may be at greater risk of damage;
- use of extension cables which are liable to become over-loaded or damaged.

Scout units have a duty of care to those using electrical equipment at their premises (including third parties). The duty holder is the person or group responsible for ensuring the safety of the premises; this may be a building manager or the Group/District Executive.

The duty holder must:

- ensure that the fixed electrical system is tested regularly, and any remedial actions followed up;
- encourage all users to carry out simple pre-use visual inspections before they use portable electrical equipment;
- require users who identify damaged or suspect appliances to take the equipment out of service, label it and to report the concern to the duty holder;
- implement and maintain a schedule of inspection and testing of portable appliances.

**Berkshire Scouts offer a free PAT testing service to any group in the County.
This can be arranged by contacting the County Administrator:
countyadmin@berkshirescouts.org.uk**