

Safety Bulletin – Q1 March 2026

This bulletin covers the incident and near miss reports which I have received from January 1st through to March 31st.

Another reminder please, can anyone who completes an incident report via the SmartSheet please ensure that the details are noted and forwarded to your GLV and also to me via: John.Bennett@cheshirescouts.org.uk

Reportable Incidents and Near Misses in Cheshire

1 Mouth Injury

Whilst playing indoor hockey, one of the sticks hit a cub in the mouth causing his gum to bleed. A first aider I gave him a sterile gauze to push against the cut. Parents didn't pick him up but leader liaised with cub's mum afterwards. Mum called 111 who advised a visit to the dentist the following morning. The dentist was visited, an x-ray confirmed no damage done.

Advice and What was learned:

The risk assessment was reviewed and changes made to take a more cautious approach to control of the pack when games become boisterous.

First response first aid was found to be appropriate and the leader in charge fully understood and correctly actioned the reporting process.

2. Fall

A Scout was climbing an Artificial wall using harness and rope. Scout was descending when the rope fed too quickly through the Grigri device that was being used. The Scout landed on the floor on his bottom and leaning to his left on his back to shoulder. Scout leader in attendance had managed to slow down the descent reducing the speed at which the Scout impacted on to the ground.

There was concern at the scene that he may have suffered spinal injuries and an ambulance was called. He was taken to hospital where no fractures were found and he was discharged a short time later.

Advice and What was learned:

The leaders running the activity had the correct permits and the equipment in use was all in order having been inspected before the activity was started

SOUTH WEST CHESHIRE DISTRICT

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The suitability of the First Aid kits in use is being reviewed and a decision has been made to discontinue the type of bandaging used on this occasion has been discontinued

3. Fall

Cubs were playing a supervised game of “Keepy Uppy” with shuttlecocks in the main scout hall. One cub slipped and fell on his elbow, he continued with the activity and the remainder of the pack meeting. His father was informed of the incident at the end of the evening, The following morning the cub was in a lot of discomfort and was taken by parents to their local A&E where it was found that he had sustained a fracture to his elbow.

Advice and What was learned:

Risk Assessments were in place and no amendments were necessary. The incident was dealt with correctly at the scene.

Miscellaneous

Martyn’s Law

No further update from HQ regarding progress.

Electrical fire safety.

When next reviewing the fire risk assessment for your premises, please think about where you’re using lithium-ion batteries and where they’re stored and charged. You’ll also need to think about other electrical fire risks, typically associated with Class A fires.

In response to a rise in incidents involving lithium-ion batteries a new fire extinguisher category (Class L) has been introduced to address this problem. This is particularly relevant within Scout premises, given the use and charging of Lithium-ion batteries and storage systems.

These extinguishers ARE NOT suitable for use on electric vehicles.

The Purple Card

This card which details the way in which incidents should be dealt and reported has been revised. HQ recommends that the card, which is now credit card sized, should be issued to all leaders. In addition a poster has been produced and should be displayed in all Scout premises. You can [order or download a copy from Scout Store](#).

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Product recalls.

We've been alerted to several product recalls that may impact the safe delivery of your activities:

- Rope access harnesses from [Petzl](#) and [Honeywell Miller](#).
- Creative craft packs containing sand from various suppliers including [Hobbycraft](#), [Colour Forge](#), and [Addo Play Ltd](#).
- [Non-Sterile medical wipes](#).

Please share these recall notices with those volunteers who may need to know. You can also sign up here to receive future [product safety alerts, reports and recalls](#).

John Bennett
County Safety Advisor
March 2026

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