



# Lindfield Repair Café C.I.C. Health and Safety Policy

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## Policy Statement

Lindfield Repair Café C.I.C (LRC) attach great importance to the health and safety of employees and all members of the public using facilities provided by us. To this end the organisation aims to ensure that all activities carried out or undertaken by its staff in relation to the work of the organisation, are managed in such a manner to avoid, reduce or control all foreseeable risks to the health and safety of any person(s) who may be affected by such activities to a tolerable level.

LRC will adopt and implement procedures that are compatible with and recognise the duties imposed by the provisions laid out in the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 and the Health & Safety (Young Persons) Regulations 1997.

The organisation will pay attention to the provision of:

- A healthy working environment
- Safe and suitable resources and equipment
- Sufficient training for employees to ensure their ability to comply with health & safety regulations and procedures.
- First-Aid kits in all worksites and company vehicles
- Risk Assessments for all aspects of work carried out by the organisation, including lone-working and home visits.

## Operating the Policy

### General Duties of all Employees

- To take reasonable care to avoid acts or omissions that may adversely affect the health and safety of yourself and others.
- To co-operate fully with anyone responsible for carrying out health and safety checks
- To not intentionally or recklessly interfere with, or misuse, any resource or equipment provided for health, safety, or welfare.
- To observe health and safety procedures. Failure to do so could result in disciplinary action being taken against you.

### Reporting of Accidents or Incidents

- The primary purpose of reporting accidents and incidents is to identify the underlying cause(s) of the accident or incident and any contributing factors, to prevent further similar occurrences. All employees are required to report all accidents and incidents using the correct reporting form.
- If an accident or incident is reportable to the Health and Safety Executive as required by the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) or is of a sufficiently serious nature, then the Directors will ensure that any investigation is carried out by a reasonably competent person.

### Working Environment

LRC will strive to provide the optimum conditions within the working environment of employees, with regard to the following areas:

- Temperature – this should be a minimum of 16 degrees Celsius. There is no maximum, but the organisation will supply, where necessary, fans or adjustable blinds. Employees working outside in hot conditions will be advised to use sun cream and wear hats and sunglasses to protect themselves from harmful effects of the sun.
- Smoking – all buildings used by LRC are non-smoking buildings, although some have designated smoking areas. Smoking is permitted during agreed breaks. Smoking in front of young people accessing the organisation is against policy.
- Disabled Access – wherever possible access to the workplace will be as suitable as possible for any employee with a disability.

### Resources and Equipment

LRC will strive to provide staff with safe and suitable resources and equipment necessary for the role they carry out:

- Computer and other electronic equipment – all such equipment is tested and meets required standards of safety. The organisation will contribute towards the cost of regular eye-testing for administration employees who spend more than half of their working time using a computer.
- Mobile telephones – employees are informed that, although research has proved inconclusive, the use of mobile telephones for prolonged periods of time has a health risk, and that they accept this risk if they use a mobile telephone.

- Wherever possible, LRC will provide adequate office furniture (desks, seating) to ensure the comfort of employees. Any employee who experiences discomfort because of inadequate seating must inform their Line Manager

### Training

- All employees are required to participate in Health & Safety Awareness training, First Aid training, and Fire Safety Awareness. They are also provided with the opportunity to participate in other relevant training, depending on whether it is necessary for their area of work.
- Employees are advised to take precautions to protect their own health & safety about the use of resources and equipment.
- LRC has a designated Health and Safety officer who receives regular refresher training in this area
- First aid treatments may only be administered by people who have completed an approved training course and have attended necessary refresher training.

### Lifting & manual handling

Lifting and manually handling any size of object the wrong way can cause serious back injuries and strains. If any employee's job involves lifting, they should be trained in the proper lifting techniques.

The guidelines for lifting to prevent injury are as follows:

You should never attempt to lift a weight beyond your capacity. Always take into consideration the size, shape of the load, the height at which you will have to lift and your own physique. Seek help if the load is too heavy or awkward for you to deal with on your own. You must make full and appropriate use of the available lifting and handling aids (e.g. trolleys, sack trucks). Ask your line manager if you are unsure where these are kept.

Before lifting, you should look for protruding sharp edges, notches, grease or anything that may weaken your grip or injure a hand. If possible, wear appropriate gloves and avoid the difficulties of handling heavy items in a cramped space. Plan your lifts and route to be taken in advance to make sure it is safe to undertake.

Your feet must be adjusted to a comfortable and well-balanced position to provide a firm base for the lift. You should tilt the object to test its weight and enable you to reach the bottom corner. At the point of lifting always raise your head first, allowing your legs to take the strain. The whole movement should be a smooth continuous action and you must never lift when your spine is twisted.

### COSHH

Employees may encounter a variety of hazardous substances whilst at work. All of these items must be assessed to ensure that they comply with the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH).

For any item the manufacturer's instructions must be followed and the items only used for their intended purpose. A Risk Assessment should be written for any CSHH used.

Employees should take care not to allow chemicals to come into contact with their eyes, skin or clothing. In the event of contamination, use plenty of cold water to wash the area and seek medical advice and treatment without delay.

Only the minimum quantities of solvents or chemicals needed should be kept and stored in suitable cabinets. They must always be kept properly labelled and in the containers which the manufacturers supplied.

### Food preparation

Employees who are undertaking tasks involving food preparation for consumption with the public **MUST** have a food hygiene certificate appropriate for the setting.

Employees should ensure that they have all relevant dietary requirements for the customer, client or guest and that food allergies are identified.

Any ingredients used in the preparation of food for consumption should have been purchased for the purpose in good time, be in date, packaging in good condition, and stored safely before and after use. The source of any ingredients should be clear and identifiable.

All young people or vulnerable adults involved in food preparation should be given clear direction, taught basic food hygiene, wash their hands properly, and maintain good standards of cleanliness and handling of equipment.

### Basic fire procedure

#### **Should anyone discover a fire they should:**

- Raise the alarm and operate the nearest fire alarm to them.
- Call 999 from a safe position.
- Help with evacuation of the building if they can.

Only tackle fires using the correct fire extinguisher provided if you have been trained and feel confident enough, and, without taking any personal risks. Do not enter smoke filled rooms and never let a fire or smoke get between you and the exit. You must **NOT** attempt too much firefighting if you feel that a fire is becoming out of control - get out and leave it to the fire brigade, you are more important than the property.

#### **If the fire alarm sounds:**

- You **MUST** leave the building by the nearest exit immediately. (Do not use the lift – if you have one).
- Make sure all doors are closed where it is safe to do so.

Go to the fire assembly point where the employee(s) leading the activity or session will do a roll call for anyone registered as present.

Do not stop to pick up personal possessions on the way out. Do not re-enter any building until given the go-ahead by the fire marshal or fire brigade.

If the event occurs to a vehicle in an open setting the employee(s) leading the activity or session must ensure that everyone moves to a safe distance from the vehicle and towards an open space or entrance to the site. Be aware of the direction of approach of any vehicles and a route of escape is not blocked.

## First Aid

Employees should have ready access to first aid equipment and facilities at all times when at work. Health and Safety at Work (First Aid) Regulations 1981 require that in order to provide first aid to their employees who are injured or become ill at work, employers must have adequate and appropriate equipment, facilities and personnel.

### First-Aid Kits

- All office premises have a First-Aid kit. It is the responsibility of the Health and Safety representative to ensure that the kit is regularly checked and replenished.
- It is the responsibility of the Health and Safety Officer to ensure that all venues and vehicles used for BH activities have designated First Aiders and a First Aid kit.
- First Aid kits should not contain tablets, medication, or pharmaceutical preparations. In all circumstances staff should be informed of their location and they must be clearly identified in accordance with the Health and Safety Regulations 1996 i.e. green background with a white St George's Cross.
- Accident Report forms should be kept by any employee(s) leading an activity or session and returned to the Health and Safety Officer if used to record an accident.

### Risk Assessments

- It is the responsibility of the Directors to ensure that a risk assessment for the organisation is carried out and reviewed on an annual basis.
- It is the responsibility of the Health and Safety Officer to ensure that risk assessments for all projects managed by LRC are carried out and reviewed on an annual basis.
- It is the responsibility of the Health and Safety Officer to ensure that a risk assessment is carried out for any programme of work and for any building used for the purpose.
- All activities and events run or managed by LRC must be subject to a risk assessment, which is the responsibility of the employee(s) leading the activity or session.

### Fire Safety Procedure

- It is the responsibility of the Health and Safety Officer to ensure that all venues used by LRC have responsibility for the provision and maintenance of fire extinguishers, smoke alarms, all internal and external maintenance of the building, fixtures and fittings and undertaking fire risk assessments as required.
- LRC staff undertake to reduce the risk of fire in any venues used for our activities as far as is reasonably possible, by ensuring that:
  - The entrance and communal areas are kept clean, tidy and free from any obstructions and materials which could potentially catch fire.
  - The building has a no smoking policy.
  - The building has no sources of ignition such as naked flames or heaters.
  - Staff and visitors are made aware of any emergency plan and escape route from the premises and regular drills are held at least every six months
  - Any Fire instructions and action to be taken on discovery of a fire are clearly displayed.

## Related Legislation, Policies and Procedures

The following policies and procedures support this policy:

- Safeguarding Policy
- Volunteers Policy
- Health & Safety at Work Act 1974
- Health & Safety (Young Persons) Regulations 1997