

Task Risk Control Sheet

Use of Brush Cutter / Strimmer / Hedge Trimmer / Mechanised Pole Saw

RCS No: NR/L3/MTC/RCS0216/SP21
Issue: 4

Key Risks !

- Re-fuelling– Fire / Explosion
- Injury from Blades
- Striking Unseen Objects
- Operator Fatigue
- Noise

Personnel Involved

E&P	✓
S&T	✓
Track	✓
Off Track	✓
Property	✓

Tools / Equipment Brush Cutter, Strimmer , Hedge Trimmer

Plant None

ALL WORK USING THE ABOVE MECHANIZED TOOLS ON OR NEAR THE LINE SHALL BE UNDERTAKEN IN A GREEN ZONE

Key Risks	Controls	Implemented By
Pre use Checks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planned preventative maintenance programme shall be in place • Pre inspection of equipment including check of inspection date shall be undertaken 	Line Manager Staff
Re-fuelling– Fire / Explosion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Risk Control Sheet NR/L3/MTC/RCS0216/GA17 - Decanting Fuel and Fuelling Small Plant for refuelling of all petrol driven machines • One 2kg Dry Powder fire extinguisher shall be available when fuelling brush cutters 	Team Leader
Injury from Blades	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Different guards are required for metal blades and cord heads. The correct guards shall always be used. • The following protective clothing shall be worn: safety helmet conforming to EN397, ear defenders conforming to EN352-1, eye protection (Polycarbonate visor or goggles conforming to EN166 1.B, for brush cutters/hedge trimmers, gloves conforming to EN388, HV Clothing (All Orange), dusk mask when applicable conforming to EN149 – see Use of Mechanised Pruning Tool for PPE for pole saws • First aid kit shall be on site at all times 	All Staff
Striking unseen objects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site survey shall be carried out before commencing work. • Objects shall be removed prior to work commencing • Exclusion zone (15mtrs for brush cutter and 5 mtrs for pole saw) to be set up around operator 	All Staff
Noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ear protection to EN352 -1 shall be worn when using the brush cutter/hedge trimmer / pole saw • The noise level at the operators ear is 103dB • Hearing protection shall be worn by any non-operators within 15m of brush cutter operations • Switch off the plant when not in use • Refer to SMF/SE/0311 Small Plant HAVS & Noise Data Sheets for further information 	

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Key Risks	Controls	Implemented By
Operator Fatigue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The harness shall be worn whilst using the brush cutter/hedge trimmer / Pole Saw The handles of the brush cutter shall be adjusted such that the weight is taken by the harness and not the operator The blade of Hedge Trimmer shall be lubricated before start of work for efficient use 	All Staff
Underfoot Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See Risk Control Sheet NR/L3/MTC/RCS0216/GH02 - Underfoot Conditions Operators shall continue to monitor underfoot conditions as they move around worksite 	All Staff
Use of Mechanised Pruning Tool (Pole Saw)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personal Protective Equipment shall be worn including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Metal mesh visor to BS EN 1731 ➢ Chainsaw gloves to BS EN 381-7 Class 0 ➢ Protective boots to BS EN ISO 20345 ➢ Chainsaw clogging trousers to BS EN 381-5 Bar shall be sheathed when not in use Arrange an exclusion zone of 5 metres to prevent injury to others All staff required to work within the exclusion zone shall wear the same PPE as the operator Loose clothing / jewellery shall be secured or removed 	Team Leader / All Staff
Darkness / Poor Visibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where possible all work shall be performed during daylight Suitable and sufficient lighting shall be provided - see Task Control Sheet NR/L3/MTC/RCS0216/SP16 - Use of Site Lighting Lighting levels shall be suitable & sufficient for the activity 	All Staff
Vibration for Strimmer Brush Cutter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rotate staff to reduce exposure or include rest periods as required Gloves may help to prevent vibration injury by keeping hands warm and dry. Anti vibration gloves are not a control factor Example amounts of work to meet EAV & ELV (in 8 hr shift):- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EAV: 5 hours trigger time ELV: 8 hrs trigger time Refer to SMF/SE/0311 Small Plant HAVS & Noise Data Sheets for further information 	<div>Team Leader</div> <hr/> <div>Staff</div>
Vibration for Hedge Trimmer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rotate staff to reduce exposure or include rest periods as required Gloves may help to prevent vibration injury by keeping hands warm and dry. Anti vibration gloves are not a control factor Example amounts of work to meet EAV & ELV:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EAV: 3hrs trigger time ELV: 8hrs trigger time Refer to SMF/SE0311 Small Plant HAVS Data Sheets for further information 	<div>Team Leader</div> <hr/> <div>Staff</div>