











Risk Assessment

In accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015

Ref No 4.2
Date of Issue
January 2020

Task	Hedge Trimming Using Powered Hedge Cutters	Location	Various
Name of Assessor	Michael O'Keefe		
Job Title	Owner/operator		
Signature		Review Date	10th January 2020
Review Details (Reviewed following change in equipment, activity or incident, or as a minimum on an annual basis)			
Name		Review Date	
Name		Review Date	
Name		Review Date	

Persons at Risk									
Operatives			Public /Visitors				Other Contractors		
Y			Y				Y		
Operative PPE requirements for this operation									
									
Safety Boots	Coveralls	Gloves	Eye Protection	Hearing Protection	Face Protection	Hard Hats	Hi Viz Vest/Clothing	Dust Mask	Wellington Boots
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N
Specific PPE comments or requirements Hi Viz when working in public areas or on highway areas									

Estimated Level of Risk (Based on Findings)		
Low (1-4)	Medium (5-12)	High (13-25)

Emergency Details			
Nearest A & E:	Cromwell Medical Centre	Telephone No:	03 445 1119
Supervisor Name	Michael O'Keefe	Telephone No:	021 082 46643



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Severity of Outcome		Rating Given			Likelihood			Rating Given		
First Aid injury or minor property damage		1			Highly Unlikely			1		
Minor injury or property damage		2			Unlikely			2		
Potential lost time injury or short term ill health		3			Medium			3		
Major illness or injury		4			Likely, may occur regularly			4		
Fatal or disabling injury or serious ill health		5			Highly Likely, certain or almost certain to occur			5		

Apply a rating to both likelihood and severity and then multiply together to give actual risk rating of a particular hazard

Hazard	Risk	L	S	R	Control Measures	L	S	R	Further Action Required
Defective Equipment	Defective equipment presents a risk of injury	3	5	15	<p>Before use, carry out and record weekly safety checks of machines, pay specific attention to safety devices such as blade guards and on off switch</p> <p>If thought to be defective at any time, cease use of machine and attach a defect tag to isolate from use.</p> <p>Report any defects to your Supervisor</p> <p>Ensure machines is regularly serviced in accordance with manufacturers recommendations</p>	1	3	3	
Improper Use	Equipment used incorrectly can cause serious injury to operators and others	4	3	4	<p>Only trained operatives to use equipment, if you are unsure about this seek advice from your Manager</p> <p>Do not permit untrained persons to use equipment.</p> <p>Do not use on large stems as not designed for this purpose</p> <p>Use equipment in full accordance with manufacturers recommendations as contained in the handbook</p>	1	4	1	
Cuts from sharp blades	Risk of coming into contact with blades when in use and also when being transported	3	4	12	<p>Always keep blades guarded when not in use</p> <p>Do not hold or carry by the blades</p> <p>Cut away from the body at all times, never towards the body</p> <p>Stand on a firm level footing to avoid accident slips which result in injury from blade contact.</p> <p>Do not stretch or over reach as this can cause accidental contact with the hedge cutter blades</p> <p>If the blades are defective or are not working properly, then report them as defective and cease use of the machine.</p>	2	4	8	

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Hazard	Risk	L	S	R	Control Measures	L	S	R	Further Action Required
Cut debris from trimmings	Hedge trimming causes considerable arisings cause cut, scrape or trip hazards	3	3	9	<p>Cut with trimmers from the base of the hedge upwards to avoid clogging of debris</p> <p>Wear gloves, and eye protection when cutting and handling material</p> <p>Avoid cutting above shoulder height to stop cut debris falling back onto operatives</p> <p>Do not cut hedge material above pedestrians or public.</p> <p>Remove material from the ground quickly to avoid excessive trip hazards.</p>	1	3	3	
Hot Engine/ parts	Burns to hands from hot engine and exhaust system	3	3	9	<p>Keep hands clear from engine and exhaust, even after use.</p> <p>Hot parts should be correctly guarded, if not then report as defective as above.</p>	1	3	3	
Refuelling/ storing petrol	Contact with harmful substance, Fire, Theft and Risk of pollution	3	3	9	<p>Ensure operatives are briefed on the use of petrol mix and H&S (Hazardous Substances) Regulations 2017</p> <p>Wear gloves when handling petrol and two stroke oil</p> <p>Store petrol in safe jerry can only.(max size 10lt)</p> <p>Secure fuel cans when not in use</p> <p>Vehicles carrying petrol to have 1kg Fire extinguisher (Foam or CO2)on board</p> <p>Refill machines on level ground when machine has cooled, using a funnel or pouring spout from petrol can.</p> <p>Do not overfill machine with fuel</p> <p>Clean up all spillages, however small.</p>	1	3	3	
Noise	Excessive noise exposure may contribute to Noise induced hearing loss	4	4	16	<p>Report defective equipment and cease use immediately.</p> <p>Wear hearing protection of minimum Class 4.</p>	1	4	4	
Vibration	Exposure to excessive vibration may cause ill health	3	4	12	<p>Ensure operatives are aware of the risks of vibration.</p> <p>Do not grip the handles too tightly.</p> <p>Keep your core body temperature warm and wear gloves to keep hands warm.</p> <p>Make sure the line is the correct length and the line trimmer is in place and effective.</p> <p>Maintain equipment in good order, do not operate faulty or defective equipment.</p>	1	4	4	



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Manual Handling	Risk of injury from lifting machine, manoeuvring machine or poor set up of controls prior to use	2	3	6	<p>Do not stretch or over reach with equipment as this makes it more difficult to manage</p> <p>Rotate the trimming work to avoid excessive use of equipment</p> <p>Always use the handles correctly and do not fool around with trimmers.</p>	1	3	3	
Site / Work environment Hazards Site surface hazards Gas Pipes	Outdoor sites beyond the control of the company may have slip, trip or fall hazards, such as damaged surfacing/edgings, manholes and inspection covers, build ups of debris or algae or uneven ground conditions that could lead to slips and trips that result in injury. Gas mains pipe which are hidden from view	3	4	12	<p>When working out on sites remain vigilant of site surroundings; Do not walk or work from damaged or defective paving.</p> <p>Do not stand on manhole covers, inspection covers or temporary surfacing as they may give way underfoot.</p> <p>Do not walk backwards as this increases the chances of trips and slips</p> <p>Do not run on site, unless in an emergency, as this also increases the risk of falls and trips.</p> <p>Do not attempt to repair site defects unless you are trained, competent and authorised to do so.</p> <p>Be aware of hidden services such as <u>Gas Pipes</u>, these can be covered by overgrown shrubbery. Always take time to check where pipes lead before carrying out hedge cutting duties.</p> <p>Never attempt to repair cut pipes and contact the gas board immediately. Do not smoke or let anyone near the area until it has been repaired.</p>	1	4	4	All site defects or damage of this type to be reported as a near miss to enable action to be taken to make safe. Near misses to be reported to your Manager using the pads provided.
Site / Work environment hazards. Unexpected obstacles, obstructions and on site debris	Risk of injury or ill health as a result of trying to attempt or move items that may be in the way; fallen branches, fly-tipped material, damaged or fallen headstones, damaged fencing or other materials.	2	4	8	<p>Do not lift or attempt to move items which are too heavy to lift – (greater than 15kg)</p> <p>Do not move items that could be thought to be heavy, hazardous or harmful without the necessary risk assessment being conducted. In all cases report the matter to your Supervisor and wait for instruction before moving or handling materials or items.</p> <p>Do not move or disturb items that may belong to others or that may have been damaged, report all cases to your supervisor to allow the client to be informed and await further instruction.</p> <p>Do not attempt to repair or replace items on site unless you are trained, competent and authorised to do so.</p> <p>Removal or handling of heavy or difficult items to be subject to a separate manual handling risk assessment</p>	1	4	4	Report all incidents of hazardous or difficult obstacles / obstructions as a near miss and return the near slip to your Manager for action and recording.



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Injuries to others/ members of the public	Members of the public, particularly children or animals may not understand or recognise the risk of using equipment	2	4	8	Carry out work when areas are not busy. Never leave equipment running when unattended. If approached or confronted with people or animals, switch off immediately. If areas get too busy then cease work and then return at a quieter time	1	4	4	
Slips trips and falls	Site or ground conditions	4	3	12	When working on sites follow simple safety steps to avoid slips trips and falls. Always wear the correct safety footwear for work Report any damage to PPE and boots immediately to enable replacement. Check work area before starting to identify lips or trips In untidy or messy areas, establish a safe route to get to the work to avoid clambering or stepping over hazards. Never run unless you are at serious risk Maintain an awareness of surrounding areas, taking note of Pot Holes, kerbs/ edges, sloped or stepped areas (including uneven slopes or steps) Avoid walking backwards	1	3	3	
Maintenance and cleaning activities	Contact with biological hazards when cleaning used equipment Risk of injury form maintenance tasks	2	3	6	When cleaning or adjusting the cord head, wear gloves to avoid getting hands dirty. Only competent persons to maintain machines. Maintenance to be carried out in accordance with manufacturers recommendations (operators manual).	1	3	3	