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| **Work Activity Risk Assessment****Chainsaws (Tree Work)** |
| **TRAINING / SUPERVISION** | Trained / Authorised personnel only / Review site risk assessment and brief personnel on risks & controls before work starts. Supervisor to trainees ratio as per HSE guidance - see footnotes at appendix 1 |
| **PPE REQUIRED** | Safety Helmet (to EN 397) Hearing Protection (to EN 352-1), Eye Protection (mesh visors to EN 1731 or safety glasses to EN 166) Chainsaw Jackets (to BS EN 381-11) Gloves (to EN 381-7) Leg protection (to EN 381-) Chainsaw Boots (to BS EN ISO 20345:2004) |

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| **COMMON HAZARDS**Associated with the work activity | **WHO IS AT RISK?**Public, staff, trainees, volunteers, children | **RISK RATING**Risk level before controls are in place | **CONTROL MEASURES**Existing measures in place before work is allowed to start | **RESIDUAL RISK**Remaining risk after controls are in place |
| Striking injury -Falling trees & branches Overhanging / protruding vegetation | Staff , trainees, volunteers & public | high | * Survey area for windblown trees, possible entanglement with vines, other trees, lodged or windblown trees,
* Clear possible entanglements with pole saw from ground level
* Operator calculates fall zone before felling
* Demarcate area / post warning signs / advise alternative route
* No-one else within two tree lengths of operator
* Avoid felling through trees / other objects
* Establish escape route before felling
* Remove loose branches before felling
* Progressively release stressed branches using chainsaw
* Use of ropes / winches to control felling
 | low |
| Striking injury - contact with saw or moving parts / kickback | Staff , trainees & volunteers | medium | * Only trained / authorised personnel to operate chainsaws
* Regular maintenance / check serviceable before use
* Follow manufacturer’s operating instructions
* No-one else within two tree lengths of operator
* Use blade protection when transporting tools and carry by side
* Mandatory use of appropriate PPE outlined above
 | low |
| Striking Injury from failing ropes | Staff , trainees & volunteers | medium | * Check ropes for wear and tear before use
* Never use damaged ropes
* Use 16mm polypropylene ropes long enough to keep others clear of the felling area
 | low |
| Damage to underground services - gas, water, electricity etc. | Staff , trainees, volunteers & public | medium | * Liaison with utility companies before work begins
* Survey for buried services / refer to plans & drawings
 | low |
| Contact with overhead power lines | Staff , trainees, volunteers & public | medium | * Liaise with power company before work begins
* Assessment by operator to ensure trees are a minimum distance of 15m from power lines
* If tree touches power line - stay clear and contact power company immediately
* Demarcate the work area if possible
 | low |
| Vibration | Staff, trainees & volunteers | medium | * Adequate supervision
* Exposure time within set limits
* Complete personal exposure log daily during monitoring periods
* Report health problems / symptoms to line manager immediately
* Mandatory use of appropriate PPE outlined above
 | low |
| Noise | Staff, trainees & volunteers | medium | * Adequate supervision where appropriate
* Wear PPE required for the equipment used
* Ear defenders or ear plugs highly recommended
* Completion of health screening questionnaires as and when requested
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|  |  |  | * Exposure time within required / recommended limits
* Take regular breaks and alternate with quiet tasks whenever possible
* Report health problems / symptoms to line manager immediately
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| Refueling chainsaws - burns / fire | Staff, trainees & volunteers | medium | * No smoking in immediate area
* Refueling away from possible sources of ignition
* Never refuel with engine running
* Fuel stored in approved containers
* Dry powder extinguisher to be kept on hand
 | low |
| Skin conditions - contact with chemicals during maintenance / refueling | Staff, trainees & volunteers | low | * CoSHH risk assessment and controls mandatory
* Keep skin covered
* Wear latex gloves when refueling
 | low |
| Sting / rash / blistering etc. from hazardous plants | Staff , trainees & volunteers | low | * Identify hazardous plants and plan work to avoid contact
* Keep arms covered at all times
 | low |
| Eye damage -Sawdust / wood chippings | Staff , trainees & volunteers | medium | * Eye protection / mesh visor
 | low |
| Respiratory problems -Sawdust / wood chippings Contact with treated wood | Staff , trainees & volunteers | low | * Regular breaks / good ventilation
 | low |
| Manual handling | Staff , trainees & volunteers | low | * Training / awareness / use of safe lifting techniques
* Cut timber to manageable size for lifting / handling
* Rotate tasks to avoid repetitive strain
* Use wheeled equipment to move loads where possible
* Seek assistance where required
 | low |
| Slips, trips & falls | Staff , trainees & volunteers | low | * Suitable footwear for weather & ground conditions
* Plan safe access and egress to / from work site
* Clear area of any removable slip / trip hazards before work begins and as work proceeds
* Mark obvious slip / trip hazards that cannot be removed
* Designate area to store for tools / equipment & waste
 | low |
| Adverse weather | Staff , trainees & volunteers | low | * Suitable clothing for variable conditions / sunscreen
* Stop activity in extreme / hazardous weather
 | low |

**LIST ANY ADDITIONAL HAZARDS AND EXTRA CONTROLS WHERE THOSE LISTED ABOVE ARE NOT SUFFICIENT TO MANAGE THE RISK**

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|  |  |  |  | low |

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| **RESULT** | **CERTAIN** | **PROBABLE** | **POSSIBLE** | **IMPROBABLE** |
| **FATAL / DISABILITY** | **HIGH** | **HIGH** | **MEDIUM** | **LOW** |
| **MAJOR INJURY** | **HIGH** | **HIGH** | **MEDIUM** | **LOW** |
| **MINOR INJURY** | **MEDIUM** | **MEDIUM** | **LOW** | **LOW** |
| **NO INJURY** | **LOW** | **LOW** | **LOW** | **LOW** |
| **CERTAIN - happens repeatedly, expected PROBABLE - will happen more than once****POSSIBLE - unlikely, though conceivable IMPROBABLE- highly unlikely** |

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| **NAME** |  | **SIGNATURE** |  | **DATE** |  |

# Appendix 1 LONEWORKING

Lone working is permitted for ground work only. However, this should be avoided where possible. Where this Is unavoidable carry out a lone-working risk assessment and establish safe procedures to raise the alarm if something goes wrong

# FIRST AID

A trained first aider must be present during all chainsaw work and first aid kits should carry a large wound dressing

# TRAINEE / INSTRUCTOR RATIO (GUIDE ONLY)

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| RATIOS | ORGANISED TRAINING COURSE | SUPERVISION / CONSOLIDATION OF TRAINING AT WORK |
| Overall | 1:4 | 1:2 |
| During initial practical operation | 1:1 | 1:1 |
| Once trainee is competent | Supervision may now be reduced for individual trainees to a maximum of 1:4 for as long as the instructor continues tosupervise on full-time basis | Supervision may return to 1:2 once trainees have reached a satisfactory level of competence. The supervisor may thenalso carry out chainsaw work in the area |

**PRE-USE CHECKS**

Before operating a chainsaw, users must check;

* All nuts and screws etc. are tight
* The saw chain is correctly tensioned
* The throttle cannot be squeezed unless the throttle lock-out is pressed
* The correct PPE is worn properly

**Persons authorised to use**

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| **NAME** | **TRAINED BY** | **DATE** | **NAME** | **TRAINED BY** | **DATE** |
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