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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 |  |
| 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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| **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 to  supervise on full-time basis | Supervision may return to 1:2 once trainees have reached a satisfactory level of competence. The supervisor may then  also 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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