

Risk Assessment Guidance

Title

Chainsaw

This risk assessment guidance has been carried out for the use of chainsaws on the site. This document is a general risk assessment for the use of chainsaws.

All safety signage should be displayed in the area of use and only operatives who have been trained are permitted to operate this equipment.

This risk assessment should be reviewed fully by users of the chainsaw prior to use for the first time and in the event that it is not sufficient to control the risk posed by the model in question then the user should report this to the supervisor.



Job Sequence	Hazard Identification	Controls
Conduct pre-operational checks	Poor condition of the equipment Damage to the machine.	<p>A log of use must be kept for each chainsaw following the manufacturer's instructions and serviced by a competent person as per the manufacturer's suggested intervals.</p> <p>Units must be visually inspected before each use and damaged machines reported to the supervisor. Damaged machines must not be used until they have been examined by a competent person.</p> <p>All chainsaws must be maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.</p> <p>No young workers to operate the machinery.</p> <p>Never operate the engine with heat shields removed.</p> <p>Check that the chain brake works correctly. Apply the chain brake when walking on site.</p>
Operation of the chainsaw	Incorrect Use. Work pieces jamming. Ejected work pieces, etc.	<p>When carrying and transporting chain saws, the chain bar guard shall be in place, the chain brake shall be engaged and the motor shall be shut off.</p> <p>Chain saws shall not be for cutting above the shoulder, from ladders any other work platforms that are used to reach the work.</p> <p>Operator must hold the chainsaw in a firm two-handed grip with fingers and thumb surrounding the handles. Keep both feet firmly positioned when operating a chainsaw.</p> <p>Chain saws shall be started on the ground or other level area with the chain pointing away from the body and clear of any obstructions. Chain saws shall not be "drop started". This leaves only one hand to control and could result in cuts to the legs or other body parts in the lower extremity.</p> <p>Chains shall be kept sharp, well lubricated and have the proper amount of tension. RPM of the chainsaw shall not exceed the RPM rating of the blade.</p>

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		<p>Do not operate in a confined space.</p> <p>The chain brake should be used when the chainsaw is not in use for long periods of time.</p>
Personal Protective Equipment	<p>Parts of the body coming into contact with the machine.</p> <p>Clothing/hair can become entangled.</p> <p>Wood dust can be inhaled.</p> <p>Noise damage.</p>	<p>Please ensure you wear the correct PPE when operating the chainsaw, lanyards/ID badges should be secured as well as loose clothing and long hair tied back.</p> <p>Workers operating chainsaws are required to wear protective clothing, hard hat (EN 397, or EN 14052), safety glasses (EN 166), face shield (EN 1731), gloves (EN 387-1) and foot and metatarsal protection (EN 381-5 & EN ISO 17249).</p> <p>Depending on the material being worked with RPE may be required, it's advisable to always wear a suitable dust mask when completing tasks creating dust.</p> <p>Due to noise level, hearing protection (EN 352-1/2/3) must be worn at all times.</p>
Work Environment	<p>General environment, ventilation and lighting levels.</p> <p>Space to operate and handle the machinery safely.</p> <p>Housekeeping.</p>	<p>There must be sufficient light to see the piece being worked on clearly.</p> <p>There must be sufficient space around the work area in order to allow the operator a free range of movement.</p> <p>Danger tape and hard barricades (if required) to separate the work area. No one enters the area without authorization.</p> <p>Do not operate in confined space. Use in a well-ventilated area, preferably with fume extraction ventilation. Avoid breathing or coming into contact with fuel.</p> <p>No lone working in any circumstances.</p>
Fuelling chainsaw	<p>Environmental release – fuel spills.</p> <p>Exposure to fumes generated by refueling.</p> <p>Burns/leaks/splash</p> <p>Contact with fuel/chainsaw fluids - burns</p>	<p>Fully stocked spill kits must be in close proximity</p> <p>Chain saws shall be fuelled and used in well-ventilated areas.</p> <p>Fuelling shall not be done with the motor running or while the saw is hot.</p> <p>Use proper PPE while refueling (ie gloves, glasses etc).</p> <p>Carry out visual checks for fuel leaks and repair before operation.</p> <p>Keep flammables away from the engine.</p> <p>Do not smoke while operating, servicing or refueling this machine.</p>
First Aid		<p>Make sure you are aware of the first aid provisions in place at the event.</p> <p>All accidents & near misses must be reported to your Supervisor</p>

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All persons working with this equipment or within close vicinity must sign and show that they have read and understood the risk assessment guidance and that they will follow the above control measures set out above during their work processes.

Additional Guidance	COSHH Assessment	Method Statement	Other (Specify)
		N/A	Only trained persons are allowed to operate this equipment.
Name			
Signed			Date