

## RISK ASSESSMENT

**ACTIVITY: WOODLAND MANAGEMENT TASKS (does not include chainsaw use)**

**WHAT IS COVERED? Tree felling, pruning, cross cutting, stacking and moving timber, log splitting**

**WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR CONTROLS: Work supervisor and all work party members**

<b>WHAT IS THE HAZARD</b>	<b>WHO WOULD BE INJURED?</b>	<b>NATURE AND METHOD OF INJURIES</b>	<b>FREQUENCY OF HAZARD?</b>	<b>SEVERITY OF HAZARD?</b>	<b>ASSESSED RISK</b>	<b>CONTROLS</b>	<b>RISK AFTER CONTROL</b>
Hanging trees / branches	Work party	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Branches falling to cause head and other body injuries;</li> </ul>	MED	HIGH	HIGH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check site before work for hanging branches;</li> <li>• Clear hanging branches before other tasks;</li> <li>• If unable to clear, mark hazard or make known to all;</li> <li>• Hard hats worn at all times in work area;</li> </ul>	MED
Fallen trees, branches and stumps	Work party	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trip and falls causing sprains, bruises, cuts;</li> </ul>	HIGH	LOW	MED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check site before work and clear fallen branches from access routes;</li> <li>• Clear felled trees immediately;</li> <li>• Ensure stumps are cut off low to ground;</li> <li>• Only work during daylight;</li> </ul>	LOW
Uneven, steep or slippery ground	Work Party	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trips and falls causing sprains, bruises, cuts;</li> </ul>	HIGH	LOW	MED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure extra care on slopes;</li> <li>• Be aware that frequently used routes can become more slippery;</li> <li>• Take extra care in the wet;</li> <li>• Ensure SITE RISK ASSESSMENT has highlighted particularly hazards areas;</li> <li>• Wear suitable, sturdy footwear;</li> </ul>	LOW
Tree felling Clearing hung and windblown trees	Work party Public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trees felled onto people;</li> <li>• Butt end kicking up when felled;</li> <li>• Debris falling from crown during felling;</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	MED	HIGH	HIGH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hard hats worn at all times in work area;</li> <li>• Keep at least 2x tree height distance from others when felling;</li> <li>• Ensure safe routes to escape from tree and move away from tree as it falls;</li> <li>• Be aware of weighting due to growth and snow;</li> <li>• Be aware of wind conditions;</li> <li>• Check tree crown for hanging debris before felling;</li> <li>• Be aware of rot and damage causing trees to fall prematurely;</li> </ul>	MED

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Snedding	Work party	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Saw / billhook injuries;</li> <li>• Springing branches hitting worker;</li> </ul>	MED	MED	MED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only trained/confident workers to use billhooks;</li> <li>• Check branches for tension before removing;</li> <li>• Others to keep clear of tree as it is snedded;</li> <li>• Sned while tree still attached at stump if possible;</li> <li>• Ensure tree is not likely to slip/roll before snedding;</li> <li>• Stand opposite side of trunk from limb to be sned;</li> </ul>	MED
Cross cutting	Work party	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Saw injuries;</li> <li>• Rolling logs causing impact;</li> </ul>	MED	LOW	LOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cross cut while tree still attached at stump if possible;;</li> <li>• Ensure no one is down slope when cross cutting on slopes;</li> <li>• Stand up slope of log;</li> </ul>	LOW
Shifting and stacking timber Extracting timber from worksite	Work party	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heavy log causing back problems when lifting and foot/leg injuries when dropped, rolled or incorrectly stacked;</li> <li>• Increased likelihood or severity from trips, falls and slippery/steep ground;</li> </ul>	MED	LOW	LOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan work site to minimise distance to carry logs;</li> <li>• Plan access routes for carrying timber to minimise slopes and other hazards;</li> <li>• Ensure access paths are clear of debris / fallen branches;</li> <li>• Ensure proper lifting procedures are followed;</li> <li>• Carry larger sections in pairs;</li> <li>• Timber stacks secured by posts or retained trees;</li> <li>• Stacks should be no higher than 1m;</li> <li>• Stacks on flat ground only;</li> </ul>	LOW
Splitting logs	Work party	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Back injuries from axe use;</li> <li>• Cuts from flying splinters;</li> </ul>	LOW	MED	MED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Place logs on large stump or chopping block;</li> <li>• Ensure sound footing;</li> <li>• Keep area clear of others;</li> </ul>	LOW
De-limbing, crown lifting and pruning	Work party	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Saw injuries;</li> <li>• Injury from falling or springing branches;</li> </ul>	LOW	HIGH	MED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure hard hats are worn;</li> <li>• Check branch for tension before cutting;</li> </ul>	LOW

**ACTIVITY: CHAINSAW USE (felling, cross cutting, logging)**

**WHAT IS COVERED?** Use of chainsaws, behaviour of other work party members around chainsaw users

**WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR CONTROLS:** Work supervisor, Chainsaw operator and all work party members

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Chainsaw	Chainsaw operator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Severe cuts and injuries from contact with chain</li> </ul>	LOW	HIGH	MED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CDB strongly advises training.</li> <li>Chainsaw maintained in accordance with manufacturers advice;</li> <li>All Chainsaw PPE must be worn and in suitable condition;</li> <li>Safety checks on saw to be carried out before use – do not use a saw which fails safety checks;</li> <li>Chainsaw operators to read HSE Chainsaws at Work booklet;</li> <li>Ensure large wound dressing is carried by chainsaw operator;</li> </ul>	MED
Tree felling	Chainsaw operator; work party Public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trees felled onto people;</li> <li>Butt end kicking up when felled;</li> <li>Debris falling from crown during felling;</li> <li></li> </ul>	MED	HIGH	HIGH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow Woodland Management Risk Assessment;</li> <li>Follow agreed chainsaw felling procedure;</li> <li>Use felling bar where needed;</li> <li>Ensure clear escape routes around tree to be felled;</li> </ul>	MED
Chainsaw operator	Work party; Chainsaw operator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Injury from falling trees;</li> <li>Injury to chainsaw operator through distraction;</li> <li>Injury to work party from chainsaw;</li> </ul>	MED	HIGH	HIGH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chainsaw operators to work away from other members of work party;</li> <li>Work party briefed to be aware of chainsaw user and keep 2x tree height distance;</li> <li>Do not approach chainsaw user from behind;</li> <li>Do not distract chainsaw user;</li> <li>Wait until tree is felled or snedding/cross cutting completed before approaching chainsaw user;</li> <li>Work party to be aware that chainsaw user may not see or hear others approaching or working in proximity;</li> </ul>	MED

**ACTIVITY: USING HAND TOOLS**

**WHAT IS COVERED?** Use of Bowsaws, Billhooks, loppers, Pruning Saws, spades

**WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR CONTROLS:** Work supervisor, Chainsaw operator and all work party members

<b>WHAT IS THE HAZARD</b>	<b>WHO WOULD BE INJURED?</b>	<b>NATURE AND METHOD OF INJURIES</b>	<b>FREQUENCY OF HAZARD?</b>	<b>SEVERITY OF HAZARD?</b>	<b>ASSESSED RISK</b>	<b>CONTROLS</b>	<b>RISK AFTER CONTROL</b>
Bowsaws	Work party	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cut hands when using;</li> <li>• Cut hands when carrying or putting/taking from storage;</li> <li>• Cut hands during blade replacement;</li> </ul>	MED	LOW	MED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wear glove on other hand to prevent injuries from saw jumping out of cut;</li> <li>• Carry down by side or in tool bag;</li> <li>• Check condition of blade and security of fixing before use;</li> <li>• Replace blade immediately when blunted;</li> <li>• Check condition of hand guard (if fitted)</li> <li>• Replace hand guard if broken;</li> <li>• Preferentially choose to buy bowsaws with hand guards;</li> <li>• Use correct size bowsaw or use pruning saw as required by the task;</li> <li>• Keep all bowsaw guards and replace when stored and carrying;</li> <li>• To replace blade: Use gloves and lever open under toe, replace blade and lever shut using the ground;</li> </ul>	LOW
Billhooks	Work party	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cuts from mis-swings;</li> <li>• Cut from bounced blade;</li> <li>• Cut from carrying, storing and picking up and sharpening;</li> <li>• Splinters from handle;</li> <li>• Injury from handle leaving blade on swing;</li> </ul>	MED	MED	MED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not wear gloves while using;</li> <li>• Check condition of blade and security of fixing before use;</li> <li>• Use proper technique when sharpening using stone;</li> <li>• If blade becomes dented, have it re-ground by TFSR;</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	MED

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Loppers	Work party	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Injury from carrying;</li> <li>• Splinters from handles;</li> </ul>	LOW	LOW	LOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check to ensure that the pivot nut is secure;</li> <li>• Check handles for splintering and damage;</li> <li>• Do not twist when cutting;</li> <li>• Do not over reach up high;</li> <li>• Do not attempt to cut wood thicker than a thumb;</li> <li>• Carry down by side (not over shoulder) and by lower handle;</li> </ul>	LOW
Pruning saw	Work party	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cut hands when using;</li> <li>• Cut hands when carrying or putting/taking from storage;</li> <li>• Cut hands during blade replacement;</li> </ul>	LOW	LOW	LOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check condition and security of blade;</li> <li>• Check condition of handles for splits;</li> <li>• Carry down by side or in tool bag;</li> <li>• Store stacked neatly with handles easy to reach;</li> </ul>	LOW
Long reach pruning saw	Work party	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cut hands when using;</li> <li>• Cut hands when carrying or putting/taking from storage;</li> <li>• Cut hands during blade replacement;</li> <li>• Impact with others while carrying;</li> </ul>	LOW	LOW	LOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check condition and security of blade;</li> <li>• Check condition of handles for splits;</li> <li>• Carry upright, down by side never over shoulder;</li> </ul>	LOW

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Spade	Work party	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Injury to arch of foot when using;</li> <li>• Injury to calf when using;</li> <li>• Back injury when using;</li> <li>• Splinters from handles;</li> </ul>	LOW	LOW	LOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carry down by side, never over shoulder;</li> <li>• Use toe to press down rather than arch or heel of foot;</li> <li>• Check condition of handle;</li> <li>• Do not use for heavy work with back problems;</li> <li>• Do not continue to use if back starts to ache;</li> <li>• Do not attempt to use as a lever, or dig out large stones;</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	LOW
Mattock, mell	Work party	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Injury while carrying;</li> <li>• Vibration/jarring to arms during use;</li> <li>• Splinters from handle;</li> <li>• Injury due to head leaving handle;</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	LOW	MED	MED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check condition of handles for splits;</li> <li>• Check condition and security of head;</li> <li>• Use without gloves;</li> <li>• Ensure work area clear around;</li> <li>• Ensure sound footing;</li> <li>• If banging in a post, to keep it straight have another person use a spade or length of wood to hold upright and in position;</li> <li>• Wear safety glasses if risk of shattering;</li> <li>• Change user or rest after repeated use;</li> </ul>	LOW
Splitting axe	Work party	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Injury while carrying;</li> <li>• Vibration/jarring to arms during use;</li> <li>• Splinters from handle;</li> <li>• Injury due to head leaving handle;</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	LOW	MED	MED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check condition of handles for splits;</li> <li>• Check condition and security of head;</li> <li>• Use without gloves;</li> <li>• Ensure work area clear around;</li> <li>• Ensure sound footing;</li> <li>• Wear safety glasses if risk of shattering;</li> <li>• Change user or rest after repeated use;</li> </ul>	LOW