

Risk Assessment

TASK / ACTIVITY: Mowing In Public Places

TASK DESCRIPTION:

The use of mowing equipment in public areas.

MAIN HAZARDS:

Crushing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Direct electrical contact	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hot ambient temperature	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cutting / shearing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Indirect electrical contact	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cold ambient temperature	<input type="checkbox"/>
Entanglement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Short circuit / overload	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adverse weather conditions	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trapping	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fire / explosion	<input type="checkbox"/>	Asphyxiation / drowning	<input type="checkbox"/>
Impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ionising radiation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Significant noise	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
High pressure injection	<input type="checkbox"/>	Repetitive actions	<input type="checkbox"/>	Significant vibration	<input type="checkbox"/>
Abrasion	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stressful postures	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hazardous substance	<input type="checkbox"/>
Slips / trips	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lifting / handling	<input type="checkbox"/>	Localised hot surface(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Falls from height	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fatigue / stress	<input type="checkbox"/>	Localised cold surface(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Violence / assault	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>
				Please specify:	

PERSONS EXPOSED:

Employees	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Visitors	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintenance staff	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Contractors	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Vulnerable Groups	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cleaners	<input type="checkbox"/>	Please specify: Students	

CURRENT CONTROL MEASURES:

- All staff/students undertaking machine mowing have been suitably trained and are familiar with the equipment with which they are using.
- First Aid provisions are available.
- Maintenance and inspection of guards and machine prior to start of work.
- A rapid means of communication is available (mobile phone) for use in the event of an accident / complications.
- Equipment features stop-handles (automatic brake safety device linked to the engine), anti-vibration mounts & grips and silencer on the engine.

LEVEL OF RISK?

Low Med High

ADDITIONAL CONTROLS REQUIRED:

DATE

- The Safe Working Procedure should be followed and its compliance monitored by management.
- High-visibility vests should be worn by all staff/students when undertaking this task.

- Warning signs should be displayed during the operation.

NOTES:

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ASSESSOR'S

**NAME: JONATHAN
ENSELL**

DATE: September 2017

SIGNATURE:

REVIEW DATE: September 2018

**JOB TITLE: COMPANY
DIRECTOR**

Safe Working Procedure

TASK / ACTIVITY:

Mowing In Public Places

TASK DESCRIPTION:

The use of mowing equipment in public areas.

MAIN HAZARDS:

Injuries to the operator and others can be caused by: being hit by thrown debris; being hit by ejected machine parts; getting entangled with the PTO shaft; getting caught on other moving parts such as cutting head parts, belt and pulleys; the machine coming into contact with overhead power lines (OHPLs); being hit by the cutting head or machine arm as it moves; being trapped between the machine and the tractor when hitching or unhitching; the tractor overbalancing when the machine arm is extended; injection of high pressure oil from damaged hydraulic hoses or couplings; the machine overbalancing when free standing (out of use); road traffic accidents due to collisions or debris on the road.

CONTROL MEASURES:

INSTRUCTION / TRAINING

- Only authorised, trained staff/students or those undergoing supervised training may use the equipment.
- Read and follow the manufacturers' handbook.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- The appropriate personal protective equipment should be worn at all times when operating the mower. This should include: goggles or visor, gloves, weather proof outer garments and safety footwear.

PRE-START

- Ideally, the area where mowing is to be undertaken should be 'walked' to clear loose debris, stones and the like.
- Pre-start and periodic checks are required: to check the correct blade depth; of the operation of the switch and general condition and fixings; and, the blade guard and anti-vibration mounts, to ensure their serviceability.

USE OF THE MOWER

- Try to avoid mowing wet grass if at all possible. You may slip on wet grass and the mower is much more likely to clog.
- Always try to start on a level area free from debris.
- Stop cutting immediately if you see anyone approaching the area where you are working.
- Never place your hands / feet close to the cutting zone while the mower is in motion.

- If cleaning or adjustments are required, switch off the mower and, ideally, pull out the spark plug lead (if accessible) beforehand. Use a stick to remove any clogging – not your hands.
- Always watch your footing on slopes. Mow across an incline and never mow an incline that is too steep for balance and control.
- Never pull the mower towards you – always push in a forward direction.
- Keep the mower flat – never lift the mower.
- Areas with high grass and weeds should be mowed to an intermediate height, inspected a second time, and then mowed again to the desired height.
- Always turn the mower off when crossing a walkway or other surfaced path.
- Stop the mower immediately and turn it off if you hit an object – inspect the machine and repair any damage before starting the mower again.

SPECIAL HAZARDS

- Rotary mowers should not be used to cut steep banks.
- Always carry fuel in a clearly marked container which incorporates a non-spill spout. Ensure the equipment is left to cool before you refuel it and if prolonged work is expected take along another strimmer / brush cutter in order that refuelling while hot is not necessary.
- Ensure that all 'O' rings are in place and caps refitted before attempting to restart.
- Avoid skin contact with plant sap / materials and irrigate thoroughly if this occurs.

THIRD PARTIES

- Always consider third parties when assessing the area where the mower is to be used. Never work too close to colleagues – try to keep 5 metres distance.

EMERGENCY PRECAUTIONS

- A personal First-Aid kit should be carried or available close by.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Please see Risk Assessment.

REVISION:	1	DATE:	September 2017	REVIEW DATE:	September 2018
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