

Risk Assessment



Area/Issue Being Assessed: Grass cutting using Ride on Cylinder Mower

Service:
Environmental &
Commercial
Services

Assessment Date:
02/10/2023

Consultees:

Review Date: July
2026

Assessor:

Post: Open Space
Operations Officer

Reviewer:

Post: Open
Space Manager

**BACKGROUND:
ie, why is the assessment
being carried out?**

Grass cutting works are carried out across a wide variety of Open Space settings including parks, schools, cemeteries housing areas and council house gardens either as programmed proactive maintenance or reactive maintenance. Ride on cylinder mowers are used on medium to large area of grass. Ride on mowers are based from depots at Forres, Elgin, Lossie, Buckie & Keith.

Risk Rating (R)		Low		Medium	High	
TASK #	DETAILS OF HAZARD, ie, how might someone be harmed?	PERSON(S) AFFECTED	EXISTING CONTROL MEASURES		ADDITIONAL MEASURES REQUIRED TO MINIMISE RISK	ACTION TAKEN (Initial and Date)

	Harm or Injury from movement of Vehicles in the Workplace, driving for work and Work Related Driving • Danger of death, crush injuries, fractures, bruising, cuts, lacerations, scrapes, sprains, strains due to contact between mower and people/animals • Damage to vehicles/infrastructure due to contact during vehicle movements. • Road Traffic Collision between vehicles • Mower overturning • Accidents due to driving in inclement weather such as heavy rain, mist, Drivers being dazzled by strong sunlight at times of the year when the sun is low in the sky • Accidents due to operating on wet ground conditions • Damage to reputation • Mower falling off trailer when loading/unloading	Operatives Public Animals Infrastructure	• All drivers must hold a full, current driving license. • Drivers to abide by Highway Code and Road Traffic Acts when on the public highway • Only suitably trained operatives to use mower • Drivers not to use mobile phones while driving. • All Drivers and passengers to wear seatbelts. • Driver not to be under the influence of illegal drugs or alcohol. • Drivers to exercise additional care whilst driving within Schools, Parks, off road and must abide by a maximum 5mph speed limit • Flashing beacons should be on at all times • Use manual hand signals for indicating direction of travel • Driving through busy parks/open space to be avoided as far as is reasonably practical. If it cannot be avoided vehicles to be banks manned / hazard warning lights displayed. • Drivers to be aware of dogs on and off the lead when driving through parks. Stop vehicle and wait for owner if dog comes close. • Driver to keep to surfaced footpaths where possible; Driver to be aware of assets/infrastructure/ low branches etc. and to use a banksmen if required to check clearance.. • All drivers to follow relevant policies and guidance, e.g. Driving Policy, A-F Reversing Guidance • All drivers must notify their line manager if there is any change in their circumstances (e.g. medical, vision) which affects their ability to driver • All driver to complete D906 form as requested by Fleet Services • Journeys are planned and weather checks carried out prior to leaving depot and drivers to have an awareness of driving conditions throughout the day. • All safety devices and guards must be in position. • Roll bars must be in upright position when driving machine • Refer to grass cutting on slopes R/A • Refer to operator manual		
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	Harm or injury from Work Equipment or Machinery. - Death, Severed arteries, amputation, lacerations, cuts, scrapes, eye injuries caused by: - Operatives may make contact with moving or non-moving blade. - Blade/s may come off through not being tight enough - Debris/stones thrown from blade/s - Slips, trips, falls getting on/off ride on mower - Burst hydraulic oil pipe/s		- Only suitably trained operatives to use mower - Do not adjust mower with engine running - Correct PPE – gloves, hearing protection - Ensure all guards are in place - Area of work to be cleared of any obvious obstacles/debris before cutting - Ensure blades are on to correct tightness/torque - Ensure all hydraulic hoses, connections are in good condition and not loose - Refer to operator manual - Carry out daily operator check prior to use		
	Work Equipment and Machinery Unsafe vehicles may result in accidents resulting in injury. Danger of Death, crush injuries, fractures, bruising, cuts, lacerations, scrapes	Operatives Members of the public	- Vehicle subject to servicing in accordance with Fleet Services servicing schedule. - Daily vehicle checks carried out on both vehicle and trailer, defects reported to Fleet Services at Ashgrove immediately. - All repairs or servicing to be carried out by Fleet Services.	•	
	Hazardous Substances - Prolonged or repeated exposure to petrol and diesel may cause eye and skin irritation - Inhalation or ingestion of petrol and diesel may cause respiratory tract irritation, nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea - Contamination through spills over operatives can cause skin irritations/allergic reactions - Environmental Spills can cause contamination to the environment	Operatives, Public	- Petrol and diesel to be kept in appropriate containers as per HSE guidance. - Road going vehicles refuelled at fixed fuelling pumps as the first option and only filled with tins if no other alternatives available. - Ensure equipment is well-maintained at all times and filler caps fit properly and are appropriately tightened. - Follow re-fuelling process. Coveralls and gloves (EN420:2003+A1:2009 EN388:2016) to be worn during re-fuelling	•	
	Fire/Burns - Contact with hot exhaust/engine area/exhaust gasses. - Burn or blast injuries due to explosion of petrol vapours during refuelling procedure. - Explosion of petrol/diesel vapours during refuelling.	Operatives	- Correct refuelling procedure followed - Fleet Services to carry out Maintenance/repairs - No smoking. First aid kits in vehicles Seek medical assistance if require for severe burn/scald	•	

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	Manual handling Operators may experience repetitive strain/muscular cramps due to spending long periods of time behind the wheel	Operatives	- All operatives to receive manual handling training. - Regular short breaks to be taken, opportunity for Operators to schedule workload to spread driving tasks through the day.		
	Lone Working - Throughout the day there may be short regular periods where operators with their own licences are out with sight and sound of each other. - Increased hazard to employees in difficult situations or environments where help and assistance may not be close at hand. - Lone workers may also be at an increased risk from instances of violence and aggression	Operatives	- Operatives agree with each other predetermined route from which they do not deviate and agree rendezvous points and times with each other regularly throughout the day. - Operatives start and finish from populated depots, non-return is investigated by most senior staff member at the depot and reported to line manager.		
	Violence and Unacceptable Behaviour Operators may experience violence and aggression or verbal abuse from members of the public resulting in adverse mental health impact, poor moral.		- Opportunity for Operators to postpone work and remove themselves from conversations with members of the public. - Operators provided with information cards to direct customers towards the Open Space pages on the Moray Council Website. Recording from used to report incidents to Corporate H&S and HR.		

	Lone working Team members may be exposed to hazards associated with working on their own including: - Increased risk of harm (identified above) from manual handling risk - increased risk of harm (as above) from falls from height - increased of experiencing unacceptable behaviour (as above). - Team members may find themselves in difficult situations or environments where help and assistance may not be close at hand. - Increased risk from instances of violence and aggression. - They may not be medically suited or the workplace itself may pose a particular risk to the worker.	Operatives	- Maintenance requiring two person/team lifting is scheduled for days when there is full team availability. Items made safe until this can be achieved. - Work can be rescheduled if it is in a contentious area/known past incidents. - Team Members follow the lone working policy/procedure. Telephone provided and good signal range available to cover all areas. - Work is outside in open spaces so opportunity for team member to make site safe and then remove themselves from site. - Suitability for lone working discussed at ERDP.	•	
	Related Documents	Moray Council Driving Policy Driving and Towing (MS No.4) Refuelling Procedure (MS No 66) Petrol COSHH (No 20) Diesel COSHH No 35 Manual Handling RAMS No 32 A-F Reversing Guidance Operator manual RA grass cutting on slopes			

Use the separate Action Sheet if you want to complete and action plan for any additional measures required. The Action Sheet can be located on the Health & Safety pages on the corporate interchange site.