

Risk Assessment



Area/Issue Being Assessed: Waste collection/disposal

Service:
Environmental
Services

Assessment Date:
17/10/2023

Consultees:

Review Date:
October 2026

Assessor:

Post: Open Space
Operations Officer

Reviewer: 15.12.23

Post: Open
Space Manager

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

Litter picking and emptying of bins is carried out across a wide range of sites such as parks, gardens, play areas, cemeteries and also removal of litter/debris from ponds and occasionally water courses.
Waste material from various tasks is disposed of via either wheelie bins in depots or taken to recycling centres managed by the Waste Services Team.

Risk Rating (R)	Low	Medium	High
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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)
	Welfare and work environment. Harm from Work environment (weather related) harm: Sunburn, blistering, skin cancer, hypothermia	Operators	- First aid kits carried in vehicles - Wear sunscreen, hat and long sleeved clothing during hot weather - Wear gloves (EN420:2003+A1:2009 EN388:2016, multiple layers and insulating clothing during cold weather		
	Running or still water courses – - Falling into water course if loading waste from it or adjacent bank - Drowning - Swallowing contaminated water	Operatives	- Any worksite near or in water should be dynamically risk assessed before work commences and during work if conditions change. - Weather forecast to be taken into account for the likelihood of changing conditions with safe access and egress routes to be identified. - No lone working		

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	Lone Working - Occasionally undertaken as lone working where operators 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	Operators	- Operators start and finish from populated depots/offices/home, non-return is investigated by most senior staff member at the depot/office and reported to line manager. - Operators agree rough return time and predetermined route and carry a means of contact with them if plans/routes change or delays are expected. - Follow procedures outlined in lone working policy		
	Moving Traffic - Hit by moving vehicles when loading waste material onto vehicle or - Collision between Operatives vehicles and members of the public/their vehicles. - Collision between operatives and vehicles/machinery at waste disposal site	Operatives Public	- On-site dynamic risk assessment for each site location - Be vigilant of roads and moving vehicles while litter picking - Operators to take extra care while driving and parking without the aid of a banksman - Follow any one-way systems/set routes at disposal sites - Refer to Driving policy and RA4 Driving and towing	Wear high visibility clothing BS EN471:2003	
	Biological hazards - ticks – Lyme disease - rat/animal urine – leptospirosis (Weils disease)		- Check for ticks at the end of each session - if bitten consult medical attention if further treatment is necessary - regularly check NHS literature on tick bites/advice - Wear gloves when handling waste material - Wash hands after work and during breaks, especially before eating and drinking - First aid kits provided in each van - Clean cuts thoroughly - Hand wipes available in all vans with guidance on proper hand washing techniques		

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	Injury through slips, trips and falls due to: - Uneven terrain, - Damaged/broken assets - Frozen/icy ground	Operators	- Dynamic risk assessment of site to be worked on, taking note of hazardous areas and using caution accordingly - Take care in wet/icy conditions - Ensure correct PPE, including sturdy footwear is worn Safety Boots BS EN ISO 20345		
	Injury through cuts, grazes, pierced flesh caused by - contact with sharp objects - contact with plant thorns - contact with nails/ironmongery		- Ensure correct PPE, including sturdy footwear is worn Safety Boots BS EN ISO 20345 - Wear gloves(EN420:2003+A1:2009 EN388:2016		
	Manual handling - Operatives may experience muscle strain (especially back) and muscular skeletal injuries while lifting waste material on to pick up truck or trailer, or when unloading waste material at disposal site - Injury from loading tools	Operatives	- All operatives to receive manual handling training - Use powered tipper trucks/trailers whenever possible - Vehicles parked as close as possible to work site and sides of van lowered - Use correct tool for job		
	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. - Uncontrolled dogs	Operators	- Opportunity for Operators to postpone work and remove themselves from conversations with members of the public. - Recording form used to report incidents to Corporate H&S and HR. - Conflict management training available - Operatives should have good interpersonal skills - Avoid physical interaction with any dog while conducting work		

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	Contamination/ infection from exposure to Hazardous substances - Mould, fungi or other biohazards may be present on waste material - Infection from faeces - Needle stick Injuries - Reactions to potentially hazardous plants - Gas canisters/bottles could explode	Operators	- Seek medical attention if you think you have been exposed needle stick injury cards with emergency hotline provided to every operative - Wash hands after work and during breaks, especially before eating and drinking - First aid kits provided in each van - Clean cuts thoroughly - First Aids kits in all vehicles - Hand wipes available in all vans with guidance on proper hand washing techniques - Information leaflet issued to operatives to familiarize themselves with potentially hazardous plants which they may come across - Training on how to deal with needles found and how to safely dispose of them, sharps kits provided in each van - When removing faeces from assets or play equipment any contaminated PPE should be removed and disposed of at Ashgrove Stores - Use disinfectant when cleaning off faeces - Gas canisters should be disposed of at official waste sites – liaise with waste/recycling team staff		

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	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	Occupational Health Needle Cards RA 23 and Info Leaflet Potentially Hazardous Plants RA 32 Manual Handling Lone working policy Driving policy RA 4 Driving and towing			

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.