

Risk Assessment



Area/Issue Being Assessed: Applying pesticides in Open Spaces and Streets.

Service:
Environmental &
Commercial
Services

Assessment Date:
27/07/2023

Consultees:

Open Space Team Leaders

Review Date:
June 2026

Assessor:

Post: Technical
Officer

Reviewer:

Post: Open Space
Manager

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

Pesticide applications are carried out for weed control (including NNIS) across a wide variety of Open Space settings including, parks/schools/streets/woodland areas/sports pitches and council house gardens

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)

Hazardous Chemicals • Prolonged or repeated exposure to pesticide may cause eye and skin irritation • Inhalation or ingestion of pesticide may cause respiratory tract irritation, nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea • Contamination through spills over operatives • Environmental spills/Over application • Runoff from treated areas may contaminate surface water and pose risks to aquatic ecosystems • Spillage, spray and security of pesticide during transport in vehicle or on the ground • Leaks in equipment – leading to exposure of chemicals to the environment	Operators, Public, The Environment	• Promote integrated vegetation management strategies – reducing reliance on and use of pesticides. • Ensure any persons other than those carrying out spraying are away from working area, use of signs in certain areas stating that application of herbicides is in progress • Take wind speed and direction in consideration – do not spray in windy conditions and ensure spray direction does not drift to sensitive areas/non-target species • Only use Knapsacks to BS 7411 ISO 19932-1:2013 With 1 bar pressure regulators. • Controlled droplet applicators used for street spraying. • Follow product label, safety data sheet and COSHH assessment • Use correct dosage amount for job and never pass maximum application concentration/rate • Reduce spray drift by not spraying in windy weather, keeping the nozzle close to the target species and using the correct nozzle type for the job/target species • Operators to hold PA1, PA6, PA6 INJ qualifications or to work in close proximity to those who hold qualifications. • Use drift reducing nozzles • Use an approved chemsafe secured to the vehicle for transport of chemicals. Only in the load bed area. Park out of direct sunlight and lock chemsafe when not in use. • Chemicals stored in their original containers with the labels on. • Empty sprayer of all liquids and release all pressure from knapsack before transporting • Carry spill kits of absorbent granules in transport vehicles and at sprayer filling stations • Ensure equipment is well-maintained at all times • Periodically clean knapsack nozzles and hoses/shafts to prevent dirt build up and reduce blockages	•	
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	Moving Traffic Hit by moving vehicles when spraying or transporting spray equipment	Operatives	- Do not set up filling station near any potential moving traffic areas - On-site dynamic risk assessment for each site location - Be vigilant of roads and moving vehicles during spraying Wear high visibility clothing BS EN471:2003 or strips		
	Manual handling Muscle strain (especially back) while lifting, carrying, moving and using knapsacks and glyphosate containers. Knapsacks while full are over 15kgs – increased physical strain potential, back and shoulder injuries.	Operatives	- All operatives to receive manual handling training - Do not fill knapsack to weight beyond each individuals capabilities of lifting - Ensure knapsack is sitting comfortably on operators backs – use all straps and buckles to distribute weight on body Fill up knapsack as close as suitably possible to application area – reduction in distance travelling while knapsack is filled/full		
	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.		
	Slips, Trips and Falls Slip, trip or fall from uneven terrain	Operatives	- Dynamic risk assessment of site to be sprayed, taking note of hazardous areas and using caution accordingly - Ensure correct PPE, including sturdy footwear is worn		

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	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.		
	Related Documents	Applying pesticides in Open Spaces and streets MS No.3 Manual Handling RAMS 32 Reducing Use of Glyphosate Toolbox Talk. COSHH 10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,23,27. (plus any others in addition to those listed)			

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.