

Risk Assessment



Area/Issue Being Assessed: RA 85 Grass cutting using Wright or Ferris Mower

Service:
Environmental &
Commercial
Services

Assessment Date:
29/04/2026

Consultees:

Review Date:
March 2029

Assessor:

Post: Open Space
Operations Officer

Reviewer: 07.05.26

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. Wright stand on/seated mowers and Ferris stand on mowers are used on medium to large size areas of grass. These mowers are operated 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 • Risk of projectiles from cutting	Operatives Public Animals Infrastructure	• All drivers must hold a full, current driving license or provisional displaying L plates with approval from Fleet Services. • 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. • 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 • Driving through busy parks/open space to be avoided as far as is reasonably practical. If it cannot be avoided vehicles hazard warning lights displayed. • Drivers to be aware of dogs on and off the lead when driving through parks. Stop mower and wait for owner if dog comes close. • 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 drivers 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. • Refer or grass cutting on slopes R/A • Refer to operator manual • 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 servicing to be carried out by Fleet Services.		
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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 come into 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 mower • Front swivel wheels may break, come off/get damaged from collisions with uneven ground, kerbs, utility service points, manholes, uneven ground		• 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 • Ensure blades are on to correct tightness/torque • Operator to be visually aware of condition of ground and any hazards on surface being cut - area of work to be cleared of any obvious obstacles/debris before cutting • Front swivel wheel to be checked regularly for condition and secured to mower • Height of cut set appropriately for mowing surface • Refer to operator manual • All repairs or servicing to be carried out by Fleet Services		
	Vibration • Operatives may experience high levels of vibration leading to Hand Arm Vibration Syndrome (HAVS) and Vibration White Finger or full body vibration. • Repetitive strain injury (RSI) (all accumulative over time) • Operatives may experience hearing loss due to exposure to noise levels above 80 decibels – ear protection must be worn	Operatives	• Purchasing decision with fleet to secure lowest vibration possible. Trials/demos of mowers prior to purchase held to assist with purchase choices. • Health surveillance for HAVs and Audio with individual risk assessments put in place if required, • Mowers must be set correctly for operation in standing position or if Wright mower being used as a seated mower. • Ferris footplates must be set to take into account operators' weight – as per information from supplier and operator manual • Opportunity for work scheduling to allow for job rotation.		

	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 • Inhalation or ingestion of screen wash 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. • Carry spill kits of absorbent granules in transport vehicles • • Ensure equipment is always well-maintained 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 vapours during refuelling.	Operatives	• Correct refuelling procedure followed • Fleet Services to carry out Maintenance/repairs • No smoking. • First aid kits in vehicles		
	Manual handling • Operators may experience repetitive strain/muscular cramps due to spending long periods of time behind the wheel	Operatives	• All operative 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. • Refer to lone working policy and procedures		

	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 for information and advice on services. • 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 risk of over exposure to HAV's and Noise • 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. • Opportunity for work to be rescheduled for full team availability. Operatives work to their own individual exposure limits as discussed during health surveillance reviews following T3 appointments. Opportunity for increased job rotation and task rotation. • 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 where play fitters work. • 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 70 - grass cutting on slopes Lone Working Procedures			

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.