

Risk Assessment



Area/Issue Being Assessed: Grass cutting with trimmers

Service:
Environmental &
Commercial
Services

Assessment Date: 07/12/23 **Consultees:**

Review Date:
December 2027

Assessor:

Post:Open Space
Operations
Officer

Reviewer: 07.12.23

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. Trimmers are used to cut areas not accessible with pedestrian mowers, edges of grass panels and rough areas that are cut less frequently.

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)

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, injury or damage 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/cord - Blade/cord head may come off through not being tight enough - Debris/stones thrown from blade/cord Harm or injury to other operatives or passers by	Operatives Public	- Only suitably trained operatives to use strimmer and use as per guidance including operator's manual - Do not adjust strimmer with engine running - Ensure spark plug disconnected when adjusting blade/cord tightness or cleaning machine - Correct PPE – gloves, hearing protection, footwear, eye protection, hi-viz - Ensure all guards are in place prior to use - Area of work to be cleared of any obvious obstacles/debris before cutting. - Ensure harness is set correctly - Operators to maintain safe working distance to others including members of the public		
	Hazardous Chemicals - Prolonged or repeated exposure to petrol, two stroke oil may cause eye and skin irritation - Inhalation or ingestion of petrol, two stroke oil may cause respiratory tract irritation, nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea - Contamination through spills over operatives Environmental Spills	Operatives Environment	- Petrol to be stored in suitable containers. Although there is currently no International, European or British Standard for the storage of petrol in metal containers, a UN approved metal container meeting the performance requirements for the carriage of petrol under ADR would be considered robust for most storage conditions. - Two Stroke Oil to be kept in containers they are provided in. - Carry spill kits of absorbent granules in transport vehicles - Ensure equipment is well-maintained at all times and filler caps fit properly and are appropriately tightened. - Follow correct refuelling procedure MS 68.		

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	Fire Explosion of petrol vapours during refuelling	Operatives	- Correct refuelling procedure followed as per refuelling MS 68. - No smoking. Shaded fuelling site a safe distance from any ignition source. Petrol to be stored in suitable containers. Although there is currently no International, European or British Standard for the storage of petrol in metal containers, a UN approved metal container meeting the performance requirements for the carriage of petrol under ADR would be considered robust for most storage conditions		
	Vibration - Operatives may experience high levels of vibration leading to Hand Arm Vibration Syndrome (HAVS) and Vibration White Finger. - Repetitive strain injury (RSI) (all accumulative over time) Operatives may experience hearing loss due to exposure to noise levels above 80decibels)	Operatives	- Purchasing decision with fleet to secure– lowest vibration possible - Regular maintenance carried out on strimmer - Ensure cord is at correct length - Regular breaks - Opportunity for work scheduling to allow for job rotation. - Average exposure times: 3hours - Hearing and face protection must be used - Ensure harness is set correctly for the individual operator - Hearing protection must be worn		
	Burns - Contact with hot exhaust/engine area/exhaust gasses. - Burn or blast injuries due to explosion of petrol vapours during refuelling procedure.	Operatives	- Correct refuelling procedures followed. - All operators trained and competent. - First aid kit carried in vehicles		
	Slips, Trips and Falls Operatives may experience injuries such as cuts, scrapes, bruising resulting from a slip, trip or fall due to uneven terrain	Operatives	- Area of work to be cleared of any obvious obstacles before cutting. - Dynamic risk assessment of site, taking note of hazardous areas and using caution accordingly - Appropriate footwear to be worn. Boots should be to standard EN ISO 20345:2011 - Refer to grass cutting on slopes RA		

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	Manual handling 7. Operatives may experience muscle strain (especially back) and muscular skeletal injuries while lifting strimmer machine on/off trailer or pick up	Operatives	8. All operative to receive manual handling training 9. Vehicles should be parked at a safe distance from cutting site so as to reduce risk of thrown debris damaging vehicle. 10. Ensure harness is set correctly for the individual operator		
	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.	Operatives	11. Opportunity for Operators to postpone work and remove themselves from conversations with members of the public. 12. Maintain a safe working distance from others 13. Operators provided with information cards to direct customers towards the Open Space pages on the Moray Council Website. 14. Recording form used to report incidents to Corporate H&S and HR.		

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	Lone working Team members may be exposed to hazards associated with working on their own including: 15. Increased risk of harm (identified above) from manual handling risk 16. increased risk of harm (as above) from falls from height 17. Increased risk of over exposure to HAV's and Noise 18. increased of experiencing unacceptable behaviour (as above). 19. Team members may find themselves in difficult situations or environments where help and assistance may not be close at hand. 20. Increased risk from instances of violence and aggression. 21. 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. - 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	Grass cutting on slopes RA Refuelling guidance MS68 COSHH Petroluem COSSH 2 stroke oil			

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.