

Task/Operation:	Use of Chainsaws		
Group(s) affected:	Staff, volunteers, trainees, contractors		
Person(s) undertaking assessment:	Mark Gash	Date:	19 MARCH 2004
Employee(s) consulted:	JULIE BENNETT/ RICHARD TAYLOR/DAVID OWEN/ ALAN CAMERON / MARK GASH/PAUL FINN		
Union Safety Rep(s) consulted:	ANDY PEGG		

Reviews			
Next Review Required	Date actually reviewed	Changes Required? (Yes/No)	Assessor Signature

Hazard	Resultant effect(s)	Before control			State control measures and person responsible to action each one	After control		
		L	S	R		L	S	R
Saw Strike to hands and feet	Serious injury, limb loss or death	3	3	9	All operators to be fully trained and certified to NPTC level in chainsaw operation and to wear approved PPE, full ballistic trousers, boots gloves and helmet with visor.	1	2	2
Sawdust/wood chippings	Damage to eyes, blindness. Respiratory problems from treated wood.	3	2	6	All operators to use eye protection, mesh visor on helmet. Good ventilation and regular breaks.	1	2	2
Vibration	Hand Arm vibration Syndrome	3	2	6	All operators to observe maximum daily operation time. Good maintenance of equipment, including minimum of full annual service. Hands to be kept warm, and regular breaks to be taken and regular job rotation.	1	2	2

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Saw strike to third party /member of public.	Serious injury, limb loss or death	3	3	9	Operator to ensure all members of the party know how to approach operator – instructions to form part of “task talk”. Members of party to “spot” for members of public and ensure they do not enter felling area if dangerous. Use signs to warn of danger and tape off felling area to at least two tree lengths distance, if required. Operator to check that felling area is clear of members of public before dropping tree.	1	3	3
Noise	Hearing damage, deafness, long term damage from prolonged use.	2	2	4	All persons working with saw or as part of chainsaw working group to wear full ear protection. To ensure no long term or progressive loss of hearing, individuals advised to voluntarily undertake audiometric testing.	1	2	2
Falling trees, branches and debris. Hang up of felled tree	Crushing injury, impact injury to head or body, possible death. Electric shock from overhead cables.	2	3	6	A “task talk” should take place prior to felling operation to explain task, working distances and safe operating procedures. All members of party to observe safe practices. Operator to check felling area prior to dropping a tree. Assessment of working area prior to work commencing, do not work under cables.	1	3	3
Lifting	Manual handling injury to back or muscle	2	2	4	Ensure all members of party are aware of safe lifting practices and aid each other if lifting big logs. Log tongs, pulp hooks to be used for larger items.	1	2	2
Inclement weather, high wind and rain	Loss of control of felled tree, risk of slipping.	2	3	6	Make area safe and Stop operation	1	1	1
Transportation of saws, equipment and fuel	Injury to driver and passengers from moving objects, or spillages	1	3	3	All equipment to be transported in separate cab to people, and fastened down. Mobile spill kits to be available.	1	2	2

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Refuelling	Spillage giving rise to explosion, fire or pollution	3	2	6	Never refuel with engine running. Fuel can must be labelled upwith contents. Keep container at least two tree lengths from felling area and away from sources of ignition and sunlight. Observe COSHH assessment. Fuel must not be left unattended. Fuel to be stored appropriately and suitable fire extinguisher should be available, and spill kit. Always use fuel can with auto fuel shut off to prevent spillage or over fill. Mop up spillages as they happen, including spills on clothing. Use only bio-chain oil.	1	2	2
Storage of saws and fuel/oil at operational base.	Spillages giving rise to inhalation of fumes, physical contact or fire and explosion.	1	3	3	Saw to be stored in saw box and in locked store area. Fuel/oil to be stroed in fume cabinet. Limit amount of fuel stored at any time. Hazards signs to be displayed.	1	2	2