



Pruning Risk Assessment

Prior to work commencing

1. Must have PPE - safety footwear, goggles, hearing protection, gloves, appropriate outdoor clothing.
2. Consider risks and hazards in proposed work area, e.g. uneven surfaces, broken glass etc.
3. Ensure familiarity with method statement for equipment and proposed work site. If in doubt refer to supervisor.
4. Ensure that machinery is in good repair and working order.

Hazards

1. Eye injury, skin punctures or cuts.
2. Contact with thorns, spines etc in shrubbery. Handling of sharp items of litter, e.g. broken glass, cans etc. See separate RA
3. Handling faeces, vomit, condoms etc with biohazard risks. See separate RA
4. Encounters with wasps and other insects, rodents and associated food wastes.
5. Slips and trips from uneven and slippery surfaces, and slopes.
6. Manual handling of clippings and other debris.
7. Exposure to weather conditions. See separate RA

Harm

1. Eye injuries, minor cuts, fractures, amputations to fatality, infection.
2. Allergic reactions to plants, hypothermia, heatstroke, sunburn, muscle strain.

Persons at risk

1. Other persons in the vicinity of the work area, e.g. Residents, passers-by.

Control measures

1. Always, wear appropriate protective clothing and use PPE.
2. Take extra care on uneven ground etc.
3. Use good lifting techniques when moving clippings etc.
4. Always, seek attention for all cuts etc, however minor, to minimise risks of infection.
5. Always, adhere to procedure for condoms, hypodermic needles/syringes.
6. Always, adhere to procedure for handling hazardous litter.



7. Use appropriate lifting and moving skills for moving equipment and machinery.
8. Minimise exposure to fuel, oil and plant juices. Clean hands as often as possible. Use gloves where practicable.
9. Always use hearing protection when machinery in operation.
10. Take hourly breaks of 5 minutes to allow muscles to rest.
11. Take account of weather conditions, wear appropriate clothing and take warm drinks in cold weather, Wear head protection and cover up or apply sun block to prevent sunburn. A minimum of 2 liters of water should be available at all times during hot weather and, refreshments should be consumed every 15 minutes, as a minimum, to prevent heat stroke.
12. Have a first aid kit available and know how and where to summon help in case of injury.
13. If in doubt regarding safety on site refer to supervisor.

On completion

1. Tidy up, clear away debris and dispose to appropriate waste disposal location.
2. Inspect area covered to see if any hazardous material remains. If so, report to supervisor.
3. Transport rubbish bags etc. to appropriate waste disposal location. Take sharps waste to appropriate area of waste disposal location.
4. Wash hands and arms thoroughly. Carry out personal inspection for cuts etc.
5. Report completion to supervisor.