

ACTIVITY ASSESSED	ASSESSOR	ASSESSMENT DATE
12. Use of petrol driven hedge trimmers	John Hollingdale / Stephen Bolsover	29 th January 2019
HAZARD	RISK LEVEL	PRECAUTIONS
potential for harm		To remove hazard or reduce risk level. One precaution may tackle several hazards.
Operator: Contact with moving blade	H	Always wear heavy duty work gloves while handling the running machine. Keep hands away from blades; never try to remove clogging vegetation or twigs from the blades while the motor is running, even if the blades are not moving. Switch off machine before clearing such debris or before and other repair or manipulation. Stand firmly on both feet when operating to avoid falling over.
Operator: Flying debris	M	Always wear sturdy footwear, mesh mask or goggles and heavy duty gloves.
Others: Contact with moving blade or flying debris	H	Be aware of others approaching. Stop the cutting action if anyone, whether a colleague or a member of the public, approaches within five metres. If there is a risk of the public approaching unknowingly, e.g. young children, post a lookout able to halt work.
Exhaust fumes	L	Never run machine indoors. Ensure equipment is in good condition.
Fire	L	Ensure exhaust muffler is in good condition. Do not smoke or use naked flame near equipment. Use a quick release harness. Do not work near to a bonfire.
Skin conditions, cuts, scrapes	L	Use gloves when mixing/filling with petrol/oil and when cleaning machine.
Fatigue and vibration	H	Do not use machine for extended periods, take regular breaks. Adjust harness and handles for comfortable use before beginning work. Wear clothing that protects from the element and allows easy movement but will not obstruct or get entangled.
Noise	L	Ear defenders must be worn at all times. To protect others from noise, do not operate if there is anyone within a five metre radius of machine.
Machine hazards: handles, kickback, compression, electric shock, vibration etc.	M	Ensure equipment is in good condition, check nuts/ bolts/screws before use. Cut right to left. Clear ground of debris before beginning work. Grip starter cord firmly. Do not touch starter plug/power cable. Wear gloves at all times.
Skin irritation or dermatitis from plant sap	L	Some plant materials, eg. Giant Hogweed, become hazardous only in association with the UV of sunlight, causing phytophotodermatitis; but others like Euphorbia can be nasty just on their own. Therefore, skin/eye contact with sap and other plant materials is to be avoided by wearing suitable clothing, gloves and goggles. If contact does occur, wash off skin and/or irrigate eyes with clean water thoroughly: at the site if water is available, otherwise emphasize to the worker that this should be done as soon as possible on return home.
RISKS AND PRECAUTIONS SPECIFIC TO THE SITE OR DAY		
ASSESSOR		
ASSESSMENT DATE		
APPLICABLE DATES (This is likely either to be one specific day, or “until further notice”.)		

Risk level: L = Low, M = Medium, H = High

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GENERAL COMMENTS A hedge trimmer is a motor driven device that cuts vegetation using a reciprocating action of a series of blades. The design of the cutting bar makes contact with the cutting teeth difficult, nevertheless serious injury, including severing of fingers, is possible if fingers come up against a running cutting bar. This risk is reduced significantly by wearing thick gloves, not only through the inherent protection of the glove material, but also because the gaps through which fingers can get access to the blades are quite narrow. The HNCf hedge trimmer is powered by a two stroke engine producing damaging levels of noise. Ear protectors must always be worn while the motor is running.		
PREVENTATIVE MEASURES Always wear ear protectors while the motor is running. Always wear sturdy footwear, mesh mask or goggles and heavy duty gloves. First aid kits must always be on site and in a location near to and known to everyone. The machine must be used according to the manufacturer's operating instructions.(Read the manual first) Check that all persons and animals are clear of work area. Loose clothing, e.g. flapping sleeves should be avoided. Wear overalls if possible. Stand firmly on both feet whilst operating machine and always cut away from your body. Always walk forward while the machine is running since stepping backwards can lead to trips.		
PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT Face shield, hard hat, stout footwear and ear protectors are required. Use gloves when operating, filling or cleaning machine.		
MONITORING Nearest point of contact for emergency services must be known and approximate time for services to attend be established: the implications of a long response time must be specifically considered. Avoid contact with plant sap/materials and wash off thoroughly if this occurs. Ensure operators take regular breaks. Check that hazard signs erected/lookout posted to warn public or halt work.		

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