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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Site / Area: |       | Date of Assessment |       | Risk Assessment # | **068RA** |
| Completed by (name) |       | Signature |       |
| In Consultation with: |       | Signature |       |
| Identify / describe activity, equipment, area or event you are assessing: | **Whipper Snipper** |
| Authorised by: |       | Signature: |       | Date: |       |
| In conjunction with this risk assessment, training / education and development of a relevant SOP may be required. |
| **Step 1:** **Identify the hazard/s / Impact:**What do you believe are the hazards?What could happen? | **Step 2: Assess the potential risks:**Template only MUST modify to site conditionsWhat do you believe are the risks?How could this happen? | **Step 3: Reducing the risk:**What do you believe can be done to reduce the risk?Controls |
| **Machinery & Equipment*** Incompetent Operators
 | * Serious injury
 | * Ensure cutter guard is not damaged and is secure
* Safety goggles and hearing protection to be worn while cutter is in operation
* Safety footwear and substantial chaps to be worn
* No loose clothing, wear gloves and Hi-Vis shirt.
* Keep other people clear of work area and barricade work area if necessary
* Whipper Snipper to be switched off before setting aside and immediately if cutter jams
* Ensure correct fuel type is used for that specific motor
 |
| **Machinery & Equipment*** The cutting head
 | * Amputations
* Cuts
* Abrasions
 | * Do not change cutting head or replace cord while motor operating.
* Provide information and instruction on safe use.
* Supervise any new worker until satisfied they are competent to operate the machine.
 |
| **Machinery & Equipment*** Flying objects
 | * Cuts
* Abrasions/contusions
* Eye injury
 | * Wear protective clothing, steel toe capped boots, heavy-duty gloves, hard hat, full visor and safety glasses.
* Ensure the deflector (guard) is in place when using the cutting head.
* Remove any loose objects that are in the cutting area
* Ensure no other person is within 15 metres of the work area.
 |
| **Hazardous Manual Tasks*** Sustained or awkward posture
* Repetitive movement
* Vibration
 | * Muscular skeletal injuries
* White finger syndrome
 | * Ensure the harness is worn and properly adjusted.
* Ensure workers have attended manual handling training.
* Wear heavy-duty gloves.
* Do not use for prolonged time, especially if experiencing tingling sensation in fingers/hand.
* Ensure whipper snipper is well balanced to prevent back fatigue
 |
| **Hazardous chemicals (petrol)*** Incorrect storage
* Decanting
* spills
* Fire
* Explosion
* Hot parts
* Fumes
 | * Inhalation may irritate people
* Splash to eye
* Contact with skin
* Burns
* Inhalation of fumes
 | * Safety data sheet available
* Appropriate PPE available for decanting petrol
* Petrol is stored in appropriate containers in a secured area (preferable flammable goods cabinet)
* Do not refuel while machine is operating.
* Do not refuel while machine is hot.
* Check the fuel cap regularly for leaks.
* Do not allow muffler to come in contact with combustible material.
* Do not touch muffler.
* Refuel in a well-ventilated area
* Wipe up any spills
* Ensure spill kit is available.
* Ensure workers are aware of spill management process.
 |
| **Electricity*** Frayed / loose cords
* Water on electrical equipment
 | * Death
* Electric Shock
 | * The plant undergoes regular electrical inspections (test & tag)
* The main power distribution board is RCD protected and is checked regularly
* Workplace inspections are conducted to identify defective items
* Plant is fitted with standard on / off control panel.
* Lock Out / Tag Out system in place.
* Ensure cord is kept clear from the cord when in use
 |
| **Noise*** Noisy machinery
 | * Hearing loss
* Tinnitus
* Deafness
 | * Wear appropriate hearing protection
* Minimise use of machinery where practicable.
 |
| **Machinery & Equipment*** Kick out
 | * Muscular skeletal injuries
* Cuts
* Abrasions
 | * Keep cutting blade away from fences, rocks, tree trunk etc.
 |
| **Extreme Temperature*** Extreme heat
 | * Heat strain
* Stroke
* Dehydration
 | * Appropriate PPE worn when working outdoors (e.g. long sleeve tops, wide brimmed hat, sunglasses)
* Cool potable water available
* Take regular rest breaks
* Schedule work for cooler time of the days (e.g. early morning, avoid between 11:00am and 3:00pm).
 |
| **Radiation*** Exposure to UV
 | * Sunburn
 | * Appropriate PPE worn when working outdoors (e.g. long sleeve tops, wide brimmed hat, sunglasses)
* Sunscreen available and applied as required.
 |
| **Other:** |  |  |
| **Review hazard / risk assessment if task or circumstances change & at intervals appropriate to the level of risk (minimum 5 years)** |
| **Step 4: Monitor & Review:** |
| Were the controls effective? | Were there any unforeseen hazards / incidents? | New controls |
| Yes | [ ]  | No | [ ]  | Yes | [ ]  | No | [ ]  |
|  |  |  |
| Name: |  | Signature |  | Date |  |