



Task Risk Assessment
Task: Wood Chipper

Date: 10/07/2024

This risk assessment will be updated annually following a review or whenever further risks or control measures are identified.

Prior to the task taking place the task leader will assess the task and give a risk assessment briefing to all staff and volunteers to include use of tools, site conditions, manual handling etc.

PPE required to carry out this task:	Safety helmet (complying with EN 397). Eye protection (mesh visor complying with EN 1731 or safety glasses to EN 166). Hearing protection (complying with EN 352). Gloves to BS EN 388. Safety boots (complying with EN 345-1). Non-slag outer clothing. High-visibility clothing (complying with EN 471) when the risk assessment identifies that it is needed. Personal chainsaw first-aid kit.
Training required to carry out this task:	Lantra or NPTC Wood chipper training. Trailer towing training if transporting to site on towbar.
Can this task be carried out by a lone worker:	No
Minimum level of first aid required to carry out this task: (EFAW, FAW, FAW+F)	FAAW + F

HAZARD Potential Harm	PEOPLE AT RISK	EXISTING CONTROL METHODS Staff and volunteers instructed or trained to:	FURTHER ACTIONS REQUIRED	CORRECTIVE ACTIONS		
				WHO	WHEN	COMPLETED
Untrained user: Causing severe injury to self or others	Operator, staff, volunteers.	Only trained staff and volunteers to operate wood chipper. All operators to familiarise themselves with machine and manufacturers handbook ahead of use.				
Moving machine into and out of	Staff, volunteers.	Only trailer trained staff or volunteers to transport with tow bar.				

<p>transporting vehicle or storage space: Muscle strain, lacerations</p>		<p>Ensure engine is stopped and key is removed before moving. Lock chipping components and secure in transport position. Ensure load is secure before moving off. Follow Manual Handling Risk Assessment. Wear gloves.</p>				
<p>Unsafe machine: Injury</p>	<p>Staff Volunteers</p>	<p>Ensure engine is off and key is removed before undertaking any maintenance. Check the machine and maintenance records before use, and report any issues to senior ranger. Ensure safety stickers are present and visible. Ensure all guards are in place. Check condition of blades before use and change / sharpen when blunt or damaged. Blades must be replaced when worn to minimum size. Carry out annual service of machines.</p>				
<p>Fuelling Injury from ignition / explosion</p>	<p>Staff Volunteers</p>	<p>Store fuel in a clearly labelled, suitable container at least 10m away from any sources of ignition. Allow engine to cool before refuelling. Use non-spill fuel spouts to ensure fuel does not come into contact with engine. Replace all filler caps securely after filling. Clean up any spills immediately using dry spill granules.</p>				
<p>Machine Operation: Serious injury, lacerations, crush, death.</p>	<p>Staff, Volunteers & Public</p>	<p>Ensure machine is converted from transport mode. Select a firm, flat and stable surface for machine, chock wheels if necessary. Undertake all pre-start checks including ensuring guards and safety features are functioning correctly. Ensure discharge chute is positioned away from public rights of way. Wear all required PPE. Tuck glove cuffs in to reduce risk of snagging. Check infeed hopper is clear prior to starting engine. Set appropriate engine speed for material. Check material for stones or foreign objects before chipping. Stand to one side of infeed rollers. Use a push stick of at least 1m, do not put any part of your body into hopper whilst machine is running.</p>				

		Keep work area clear of trip hazards, particularly around the in-feed hopper. Take regular breaks. Never leave machine unattended with engine start key.				
Flying objects / projectiles Physical injury from collision	Staff, Volunteers & Public	Ensure no access to discharge area during operation. Erect signage on all foreseeable approaches to the work area. Erect barrier tape if necessary to maintain safe working area.				
Moving Parts Serious injury, lacerations, crush, death.	Staff Volunteers	Ensure engine is off and key removed before any maintenance or clearing of blockages. Always follow manufacturer's instructions on clearing blockages.				
Engine Hearing damage, HAVS	Staff Volunteers	Wear gloves when operating the machine. Operator and all supporting staff / volunteers to wear hearing protection.				
Exhaust fumes: Inhalation	Operator, staff & volunteers	Ensure work area is well ventilated.				
Remote working / difficult access Delayed assistance.	Staff	Team supervisor to share emergency procedure.				

The task covered by this risk assessment should only be carried out by a member of staff or volunteer who is trained and authorised to do so. If you have any medical condition which might increase the likelihood of an accident or injury resulting from carrying out this task then you must discuss this with and be authorised by your line manager, before you attempt the task.

	Assessment date	Assessor	Position
Initial assessment undertaken on	26/9/2024	Tim Read	Countryside Manager
Review 1 completed:			
Review 2 completed:			
Review 3 completed:			