



WORKPLACE/TASK BASED RISK ASSESSMENT FOR USING A BRUSHCUTTER (STIHL FS 130 OR SIMILAR)

LOCATION: ANY CANAL/RIVERSIDE LOCATION

NOTES

1. This Risk Assessment is specifically for the use of a Brushcutter (Stihl FS 130 or similar) with any of the brush/grass cutting attachments on a KESCRG or WRG controlled site for the purposes of canal restoration.
2. This Risk Assessment should be included in the documentation taken to site and retained by the site leader.
3. There must be a review of this Risk Assessment following any site feedback or every 2 years, whichever comes first. Revision and date are shown in the header.

MANDATORY PPE

1. Normal Site PPE, Safety Boots, fastened High-Viz Jacket, Safety Helmet
2. Goggles or similar eye protection
3. Gloves.
4. “Overall” type long trousers.
5. Ear Protection (ear muffs or ear plugs for short term use)

Note. A specific Helmet for the Brushcutter is provided, includes face shield, ear muffs and safety helmet.

Risk Scoring Matrix

Likelihood	Meaning	Severity	Meaning
1	Possible	1	Minor cut or bruise/injury
2	More than possible	2	Cut/Injury, needs First Aid
3	Fair chance	3	Injury needing
4	Likely	4	Broken Limb/ Serious injury
5	Certain	5	Severe injury/Death



HAZARDS FROM BRUSHCUTTER ITSELF

Ref no	HAZARD	LIK	SEV	RAT	EXISTING CONTROL MEASURES	ADDITIONAL CONTROL MEASURES REQUIRED	LIK	SEV	RAT
1.	Danger from dust and debris inc. flung debris to members of the Public. Potential pierce injury or inhalation dust/debris.	3	3	9	1. Access should be limited with clear signage provided by the site leader. Trailer kit includes suitable signage 2. Site Leader to consider use of watchman if site is on Public Right of Way. 3. Mandatory PPE includes high-viz jacket, operator is visible.	1. Site Leader to ensure signage is in position before work commences. 2. Site leader to consider pre-start on site. 3. None	1	3	3
2.	Danger from dust and debris inc. flung debris to members of the site team and especially to Brushcutter machine operator Potential pierce injury or inhalation dust/debris.	3	3	9	1. Working area should be at least 15m away from other site members to avoid debris etc. 2. Site Leader to brief all site staff of brushcutting work and need to keep clear. 3. Mandatory PPE includes safety eyewear. 4. Pre-work checks include a check for stones/loose debris in the working area. See SWI.	1. Site Leader to ensure working area demarked before work commences. 2. To be covered by a specific site brief before work commences. 3. None 4. None. Note. Specific Brushcutter helmet is provided which includes eye protection.	1	2	2
3.	High speed sharp rotating machinery, potential for severe cuts	4	4	16	1. Design of cutting head should place cutters out of reach of feet, cutter always used with guard in	1. None. 2. Site leader to confirm operator is trained and competent	2	3	6



	to operator. Potential for “kick-out” making machine difficult to control.				place. 2. SWI covers the correct use of harness and use of cutter itself. 3. Use LHS of cutter to reduce likelihood of kickout. 4. Mandatory PPE includes safety boots and suitable trousers.	3. Site leader to confirm operator is trained and competent. 4. None			
4.	Risk to operator of short term hearing loss and potential for debris in ears	3	3	9	1. Site time is generally short, with regular breaks. Risk minimised by short exposure. 2. PPE includes hearing protection.	1. None 2. None Note. Specific Brushcutter helmet is provided which includes hearing protection.	1	3	3
5	Risk of injury by “forcing” machine with blunt cutting blades.	3	3	9	1. Pre-use checks include check that cutters are sharp. 2. Site kit includes files for sharpening the cutters. 3. Only trained and competent persons are to use the Brushcutter. 4. Stihl Manual included in site kit for info on sharpening blades. 5. Forcing machine is likely to cause damage.	1. None 2. None. Better to do in workshop. 3. Site Leader to check before assigning persons to Brushcutter. 4. None 5. This is a financial risk rather than an H & S risk.	1	3	3
6.	Fatigue-induced injury, particularly slips and trips or muscular-skeletal injury and/or cuts from Brushcutter and “kickout”.	3	4	12	1. KESCRG are volunteers, our ethos is to enjoy. 2. Site Leader is responsible for well-being of site persons. 3. See note above re sharp cutting tools.	1. None 2. None 3. None	1	3	3
7.	Burn from hot parts on	3	3	9	1. SWI states allowing machine	1. None	1	3	3



	machine				to cool before maintenance/refuelling. 2. Design and correct use minimise contact with hot parts. 3. Mandatory PPE includes gloves	2. None 3. None			
8.	Exhaust fumes, potential for respiratory health problems	3	3	9	1. Machine is designed for low pollutant levels. 2. Machine used in open air, aiding dispersion. 3. Brushcutter will not be used in confined spaces	1. None 2. None 3. None	1	2	2
9.	Tools and other attachments working loose and flying off, potential for serious injury.	3	4	12	1. Pre-use check covers security of all parts. 2. Cutters and attachments only to be fitted by trained and competent person. 3. Loose parts will cause out-of balance running. SWI covers this.	1. None 2. Site Leader to verify before assigning work on site 3. None	1	3	3



CONTROL MEASURES. HAZARDS FROM BRUSHCUTTER ITSELF

Ref no	ADDITIONAL CONTROL MEASURE REQUIRED	BY WHOM	BY WHEN	STATUS (COMPLETED YES/NO)
1.	1. Site Leader to ensure signage is in position before work commences. 2. Pre-start check by site leader/advice from local group. 3. None	1. Site Leader 2. Site leader.	1. Before work starts. 2. Pre-start, if needed.	
2	1. Site Leader to ensure working area demarked before work commences. 2. To be covered by a specific site brief before work commences. 3. None 4. None.	1 and 2. Site Leader	1 & 2. Before work commences.	
3	1. None. 2. Site leader to confirm operator is trained and competent 3. Site leader to confirm operator is trained and competent. 4. None	2 & 3. Site Leader	2 & 3. Before work commences.	
4	1. None 2. None			
5	1. None 2. None 3. Site Leader to check before assigning persons to Brushcutter. 4. None 5. This is a financial risk rather than an H & S risk.	3. Site Leader	3. Before work commences.	
6	1. None 2. None 3. None			
7	1. None 2. None 3. None			
8	1. None 2. None			



	3. None			
9	1. None 2. Site Leader to verify before assigning work on site 3. None	2. Site Leader	2. Before work commences.	



HAZARDS FROM SUBSTANCES USED

Ref no	HAZARD	LIK	SEV	RAT	EXISTING CONTROL MEASURES	ADDITIONAL CONTROL MEASURES REQUIRED	LIK	SEV	RAT
1.	Dermatitis from petrol/ diesel/lube oil	2	2	4	1. Trailer kit includes funnel and gloves. 2. Fluids kept in suitable easy-pour containers.	1. None 2. None	1	2	2
2.	Danger of fire from petrol/ diesel/lube oil	3	4	12	1. SWI states to store fuel/lube away from Brushcutter. 2. SWI states to fill when Brushcutter has cooled down. 3. Filler cap has locking arrangement which ensures cap is fitted securely. Covered in SWI.	1. None 2. None 3. None	1	4	4
3.	Potential for allergy reaction from cutting hay/grass with pollen content.	2	2	4	1. Hay fever sufferers are normally aware. 2. Hay fever symptoms are not likely to cause injury. 3. Discomfort from hay fever may be delayed, need to take anti-histamine.	1. None 2. None 3. Site Leader should be aware of any medical conditions.	1	2	2
4.	Leptospirosis from Canal environment	3	5	15	1. Not specific to Brushcutter operation but covered in general site safety briefing.	1. None Note. Leptospirosis is covered on KESCRG website as well.	1	5	5



CONTROL MEASURES HAZARDS FROM SUBSTANCES USED

Ref no	ADDITIONAL CONTROL MEASURE REQUIRED	BY WHOM	BY WHEN	STATUS (COMPLETED YES/NO)
1.	1. None 2. None			
2	1. None 2. None 3. None			
3	1. None 2. None 3. Site Leader should be aware of any medical conditions.	3. Site Leader	3. At initial site briefing.	
4	1. None Note. Leptospirosis is covered on KESCRG website as well.			



HAZARDS FROM MANUAL HANDLING/OPERATION OF BRUSHCUTTER

Ref no	HAZARD	LIK	SEV	RAT	EXISTING CONTROL MEASURES	ADDITIONAL CONTROL MEASURES REQUIRED	LIK	SEV	RAT
1.	Catching loose clothing in Brushcutter tools and shafts, potential for trapped digits or pinch injuries.	3	3	9	1. SWI covers tucking loose clothing in. 2. Brushcutter is adequately guarded. 3. Blade is away from shirt area.	1. None 2. None 3. None.	1	2	2
2.	Potential muscular-skeletal injury from twisting and lifting Brushcutter.	3	4	12	1. SWI covers using Brushcutter with harness to minimise twist and lift actions. 2. Brushcutter weighs 5.9kg, within accepted weight for manual handling.	1. None 2. None	1	3	3
3.	Slips and trips from using Brushcutter on rough ground.	2	3	6	1. Pre-work check of working area included in SWI. 2. Site PPE includes safety footwear, i.e. adequate grip and ankle support.	1. None 2. None	1	3	3
4.	Fatigue-induced injury, particularly slips and trips or muscular-skeletal injury.	3	4	12	1. KESCRG are volunteers, our ethos is to enjoy. 2. Site Leader is responsible for well-being of site persons.	1. None 2. None Note; Site briefing covers stopping if persons are tired.	1	3	3
5	Vibration “White-	3	3	9	1. KESCRG working	1. None	2	1	2



	Finger” from over-use of Brushcutter			arrangements are generally to swap jobs around, minimising exposure to vibration. 2. Brushcutter designed to minimise vibration. 3. Mandatory PPE includes gloves which reduce effect of vibration.	2. None 3. None.			
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CONTROL MEASURES HAZARDS FROM MANUAL HANDLING

Ref no	ADDITIONAL CONTROL MEASURE REQUIRED	BY WHOM	BY WHEN	STATUS (COMPLETED YES/NO)
1.	1. None 2. None			
2	1. None 2. None			
3	1. None 2. None			
4	1. None 2. None			
5	1. None 2. None 3. None.			