


Work Health And Safety: Safe Work Practice: Garden & Maintenance

Brushcutter/whipper sniper operation

|  Risks | Risk Level | Risk Controls |
|---|--|--|
| Damage to ears from noise of brushcutter/whipper sniper | Likelihood: E Consequence: 2 Rating = HIGH | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restrict clients, animals and public from work area. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ear protection to be worn by workers. |
| Damage to eyes and other parts of body from particles blown by brushcutter/whipper sniper | Likelihood: B Consequence: 3 Rating = HIGH | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Use weed poison in area where debris will blow up or towards operator e.g., against side of house or solid fence. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restrict clients, animals and public from work area. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eye protection to be worn by workers (use full face shield if unsure what debris is in grass). <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> First aid kit available for prompt treatment of injuries. |
| Manual handling injury from moving or using the brushcutter/whipper sniper | Likelihood: D Consequence: 2 Rating = HIGH | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Staff competent in manual handling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Operator may find it easier/more comfortable to use harness rather than just holding the machine. |
| Damage to property or animals from particles blown by brushcutter/whipper sniper | Likelihood: C Consequence: 4 Rating = MODERATE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Staff to assess environment and remove or isolate potential targets. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restrict clients and public from work area. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> First aid kit available for prompt treatment of injuries. |
| Vibration (white finger) injury from moving or using the brushcutter/whipper sniper | Likelihood: C Consequence: 4 Rating = MODERATE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Staff to alternate use of mower and other equipment between them from one job to the next. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Staff to only use brushcutter/whipper sniper for 30 minutes before having a break. |
| Fire or explosion from petrol fumes | Likelihood: C Consequence: 4 Rating = MODERATE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Refuelling outdoors only and only when engine is OFF – no smoking and clean up any petrol spill before starting the engine, petrol to be kept in shade and container closed when not in use. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fire extinguisher to be kept close to the refuelling area. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> First aid kit available for prompt treatment of injuries. |
| Poisoning from petrol | Likelihood: C Consequence: 4 Rating = MODERATE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ensure that when not in use petrol container is kept in the van or ute out of reach of children |
| Dangerous carbon monoxide fumes if brushcutter/whipper sniper operated in confined space. | Likelihood: C Consequence: 4 Rating = MODERATE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Do not operate brushcutter/whipper sniper in a confined or unventilated space |

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| <p>Injury to worker from hazards in the setting</p> | <p>Likelihood: C Consequence: 4 Rating = MODERATE</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Staff to assess environment and remove or isolate potential hazards e.g. branches at head height and low branches that block sight of area to be whopper snipped. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> When working near road/ footpath the operator or if necessary a watchperson will monitor pedestrian/ traffic and work to cease if an unauthorised person comes within 10 metres of the machine. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> First aid kit available for prompt treatment of injuries. |
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| <i>Mercy Services equipment</i> | <i>Others equipment</i> |
|--|-------------------------|
| <p>Brushcutter/whipper snipper, fuel, oil, fire extinguisher (CO²), mobile phone, fire extinguisher, harness for operator, yard work gloves, , sunscreen Manufacturer’s instruction manual</p> <p>Personal Protective Equipment required: ear protection, eye protection, trousers, work boots</p> | |

| Activity | Worker behaviour | Client/other’s behaviour |
|--------------------|---|--|
| <p>Preparation</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure you are familiar with the handbook of instructions for use of the brushcutter/whipper snipper. 2. Visually check the area you will be working and clear away stones, sticks, wire and other loose objects. 3. Make sure the brushcutter/whipper snipper is the right tool for the task at hand. 4. Apply Personal Protective Equipment 5. Transport the brushcutter/whipper snipper to the work area 6. Check that the brushcutter/whipper snipper is clean and free of grass and build-up 7. Check that the cutting blade or cord is not bent, cracked, dull or worn. 8. Replace damaged cutting blades or cord and worn mounting components. 9. Ensure the safety harness is adjusted so that your shoulders, arms and hands are relaxed and your back is straight (if wearing harness). 10. Only start work if sure there will be enough daylight for the duration of work 11. Ensure other people are at least 10 metres away from where you are working and ask workmate to be observant of any people who enter the area. | |
| <p>Operation</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Turn on brushcutter/whipper snipper and clear away any obstructions especially near the front of the cutting blade. 2. Keep feet well away from the blades or cord. 3. Place one hand on the machine and operate | <p>There should be no unauthorised/unprotected people within 10 metres of the brushcutter/whipper snipper when in operation.</p> |

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| | <p>the starter with the other hand.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Make sure your attention does not slip while operating the implement – especially watch for trip hazards. 5. Keep a firm grip with both hands and keep the blade or cutting cord well clear of your body. 6. Ensure your footing is solid. 7. Walk, never run. 8. Take care of footing on slopes or wet ground. 9. Do not cut above shoulder level. 10. Only cut at a pace the machine can handle. 11. Rotate jobs or take rest breaks every 30 minutes to prevent fatigue or the development of vibration whitefinger. 12. Stop and switch off the engine if you hit an object. 13. Do not use the machine again until you are sure that the entire machine is safe to operate. 14. Do not use brushcutter/whipper snipper if it is making unusual noise or vibration | |
| <p>Completion</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stop the engine whenever you leave the machine. 2. Allow the machine to cool if storing in confined space 3. Clean machine 4. Store machine in a ventilated area | |

As at 05/03/2015 this Safe Work Practice is authorised for use in:

| <i>Service</i> | <i>Position</i> |
|------------------|--------------------------------|
| Home Maintenance | Gardener/Maintenance Assistant |
| Home Maintenance | Maintenance Assistant |

Date for review of safe work practice: March 2018 *(or if injury or changes require)*

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COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT

Brushcutter/whipper sniper operation

Employee _____

Assessor _____

Date _____

Desired Outcome:

To use brush cutter/whipper sniper to disperse dry and loose waste without injury

Knowledge required:

Worker must have read manufacturers operating manual for the brush cutter/whipper sniper

| Performance Criteria | Competence demonstrated | Comment |
|--|-------------------------|---------|
| Preparation | | |
| Locate instruction manual for machine | | |
| Check work are and remove hazards | | |
| Assess that a brush cutter/whipper sniper is appropriate tool | | |
| Apply Personal Protective Equipment | | |
| Transport brush cutter/whipper sniper to work area | | |
| Check machine is clear of build-up | | |
| Check blade and cord are in good condition | | |
| Replace damaged machine parts | | |
| Ensure harness is adjusted for operator | | |
| Only start work when sufficient time | | |
| Ensure area is clear of unauthorised people | | |
| Operation | | |
| Turn on machine | | |
| Keep feet away for cord/blades | | |
| Place one hand on machine & operate starter with the other hand | | |
| Maintain attention to job | | |
| Hold machine with both hands and keep the blade or cutting cord well clear of your body. | | |
| Ensure stable footing | | |
| Walk – never run | | |
| Exercise caution on sloping or wet ground | | |

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| Do not cut above shoulder height | | |
| Cut at a pace the machine can handle | | |
| Rotate jobs after 30 minutes | | |
| Stop and switch off engine if an object is hit | | |
| Do not use machine after hitting an object unless sure it is safe | | |
| Do not use machine if is making unusual noise or vibration | | |
| Completion | | |
| Stop engine when leaving the machine | | |
| Allow machine to cool if storing in confined space | | |
| Clean machine | | |
| Store machine in a ventilated area | | |

Is the worker assessed as being competent? YES NO

Any required follow up action/training: _____

Signature of employee Date.....

Signature of assessor Date.....