


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

Edger operation

 Risks	Risk Level	Risk Controls
Damage to ears from noise of edger	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 edger	Likelihood: C Consequence: 3 Rating = HIGH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restrict clients, animals and public from work area. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eye protection to be worn by workers. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> First aid kit available for prompt treatment of injuries.
Manual handling injury from moving or using the edger	Likelihood: D Consequence: 3 Rating = MODERATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Staff competent in manual handling
Damage to property or animals from particles blown by edger	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 edger	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 edger 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
Injury to worker from hazards in the setting	Likelihood: C Consequence: 4 Rating = MODERATE	<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 edged. <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.

<i>Mercy Services equipment</i>	<i>Others equipment</i>
Edger, fuel, oil, mobile phone, yard work gloves, fire extinguisher (CO ²), sunscreen, Manufacturer's instruction manual Personal Protective Equipment required: ear protection, eye protection, trousers, work boots, hat	

Activity	Worker behaviour	Client/other's behaviour
Preparation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure you are familiar with the handbook of instructions for use of the edger. 2. Visually check the area you will be working and clear away stones, sticks, wire and other loose objects. 3. Apply Personal Protective Equipment 4. Make sure the edger is the right tool for the task at hand. 5. Transport the edger to the work area 6. Check that the cutting blade is not bent, cracked, dull or worn. 7. Replace damaged cutting blades 8. Only start work if sure there will be enough daylight for the duration of work 9. 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. 	
Operation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Turn on edger 2. Keep feet well away from the blades 3. Place one hand on the machine and operate the starter with the other hand. 4. Do not let the starter cord fly back into the machine 5. Make sure your attention does not slip while operating the machine – especially watch for trip hazards. 6. Keep a firm grip with both hands and keep the blade well clear of your body. 7. Use machine at full throttle 8. Only operate when walking forwards (walking backwards may result in a trip or fall) 9. Ensure your footing is solid. 10. Walk, never run. 11. Take care of footing on slopes or wet ground. 12. Only cut at a pace the machine can handle. 13. Rotate jobs or take rest breaks every 30 minutes to prevent fatigue or the development of vibration whitefinger. 	There should be no unauthorised/unprotected people within 10 metres of the brushcutter/whipper snipper when in operation.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14. Stop and switch off the engine if you hit an object. 15. Do not use the machine again until you are sure that the entire machine is safe to operate. 16. Do not use edger if it is making unusual noise or vibration 17. Never carry edger while engine is running 	
Completion	<ul 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 flat and facing up 5. 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)*

This Page Is Intentionally Blank

COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT**Edger operation**

Employee _____

Assessor _____

Date _____

Desired Outcome:

To use edger to cut edge of grassed area without injury

Knowledge required:

Worker must have read manufacturers operating manual for the edger

Performance Criteria	Competence demonstrated	Comment
Preparation		
Familiarise self with instruction manual for machine		
Check work are and remove hazards		
Apply Personal Protective Equipment		
Assess that edger is appropriate tool		
Transport edger safely		
Check machine is clear of build-up		
Check blade is in good condition		
Replace damaged cutting blades		
Ensure harness is adjusted for operator		
Only start work when sufficient time		
Ensure area is clear of unauthorised people		
Operation		
Turn on machine – while it is on ground		
Keep feet away for cord/blades		
Place one hand on machine and operate starter with the other hand		
Do not let the starter cord fly back into the machine		
Maintain attention to job		

Hold machine with both hands and keep the blade or cutting cord well clear of your body.		
Keep a firm grip with both hands		
Use machine at full throttle		
Only operate when walking forwards		
Ensure stable footing		
Walk – never run		
Exercise caution on sloping or wet ground		
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 you are sure it is safe		
Do not use machine if is making unusual noise or vibration		
Never carry edger while engine is running		
Completion		
Stop engine when leaving the machine		
Allow machine to cool if storing in confined space		
Clean machine		
Store machine flat and facing up		
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.....