


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

Handling Grass Cuttings and Yard/Garden Waste

 Risks	Risk Level	Risk Controls
Injury from bending, twisting and/or overreaching	Likelihood: B Consequence: 3 Rating = HIGH	Ensure there are sufficient staff and equipment for the task. Limit of two catcher loads of wet grass in each bag. Use a dumper bin for large amounts and Council Kerbside Green Waste Collection to prevent having to unload waste at tip. Staff to be trained in manual handling competency.
Cutting hands on sharp concealed object	Likelihood: B Consequence: 3 Rating = HIGH	Staff to thoroughly inspect area – identifying hazards - before work commences. Staff to always wear gloves.
Bite from vermin - rodent, mosquito, wasps, spider or snake	Likelihood: B Consequence: 3 Rating = HIGH	Staff to thoroughly inspect area, identifying possible vermin hiding places, using long handled tools to clear the area, and lifting obstacle towards self. Staff to always wear gloves.
Poisoning from asbestos, lead or liquid poisons	Likelihood: D Consequence: 2 Rating = HIGH	Staff to thoroughly inspect area – identifying hazards and not handling asbestos, car batteries, lead or unidentified liquids
Damage to eyes and other parts of body from particles blown by blower/brushcutter	Likelihood: B Consequence: 3 Rating = HIGH	Restrict clients, animals and public from work area. Eye protection to be worn by workers. First aid kit available for prompt treatment of injuries.

Equipment required:.

<i>Mercy Services equipment</i>	<i>Others equipment</i>
Vehicle, wheelbarrow, gloves, rack, spade, sunscreen, insect repellent, dust mask, garden waste bags Personal Protective Equipment required: Yard work (heavy) gloves, hat, eye protection	

Activity	Worker behaviour	Client/other’s behaviour
1. Inspect area	a) Identify hazards	Client to be asked to identify hazards or unknown items
2. Prepare to handle grass/waste	a) Ask client if they want any put in compost, on garden beds or in their bin b) If there is a large amount of yard waste use a dumper bin c) Apply Personal protective Equipment d) Remove trip hazards e) Disturb items that may hide vermin	

	<p>or other hazards using long handled tool</p> <p>f)</p>	
3. Handle grass/waste	<p>a) Slowly work from one end through the area – brush cut then clear about a 2 metre square area before moving on. Identify and remove hazards as you go</p> <p>b) Use the mower once brushcutter has removed long grass and allowed a full inspection for hazards</p> <p>c) Fill bags with only 2 catcher loads of wet grass or 3 catcher loads of dry grass</p> <p>d) Preferably two people to move bags of grass to and from ute</p> <p>e) Cut large branches so they are easier to lift and transport</p> <p>f) Use a wheelbarrow to transport heavier objects or many small objects</p>	<p>There should be no one close to the vehicle when clips are being applied or released.</p>
4. Load vehicle	<p>a) If appropriate move the vehicle close to the site of the waste (to prevent prolonged carrying)</p> <p>b) Pack equipment that goes at back of tray or deepest in van first and then pack equipment that will be closest to edge using correct manual handling techniques</p> <p>c) Bags of lawn cuttings etc must be loaded last using correct manual handling techniques</p>	

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)*

COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT

Handling Grass Cuttings and Yard/Garden Waste

Employee _____

Assessor _____

Date _____

Desired Outcome:

Handle grass cuttings and yard waste without injury

Knowledge required:

Performance Criteria	Competence demonstrated	Comment
Inspect area		
Identify hazards		
Prepare to handle grass/yard waste		
Determine if some waste can be left onsite		
Reassess whether dumper bin is needed		
Apply Personal Protective Equipment		
Remove trip hazards		
Disturb vermin		
Handle grass/waste		
Clear area methodically with brushcutter		
Use mower when safe to do so		
Adhere to bag limits for grass cuttings		
Seek assistance carrying bags of grass		
Cut large branches		
Use wheelbarrow when appropriate		
Load vehicle		
Move vehicle close to area		
Load equipment first on to ute/vehicle		
Load grass and waste last		

Is the worker assessed as being competent? YES NO

Any required follow up action/training: _____

Signature of employee..... Date.....

Signature of assessor Date.....