


**Work Health and Safety: Safe Work Practice: Garden & Maintenance**

**Chainsaw operation**

 <b>Risks.</b>	<b>Risk Level</b>	<b>Risk Controls</b>
Addressing all risks		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chainsaw only to be operated by a person who has successfully completed the Statement of Attainment in accredited Operate and maintain chainsaws course within the past three years.</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Do not use if clients, animals or public are in the work area.</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> First aid kit available for prompt treatment of injuries.</li> </ul>
Damage to ears from noise of chainsaw	Likelihood: E Consequence: 2 Rating = HIGH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ear protection to be worn by workers.
Injury to worker coming in contact with operating chainsaw	Likelihood: E Consequence: 3 Rating = MODERATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Only use a chainsaw with a functioning front hand guard.</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Worker not to wear loose clothing that could get caught in moving parts of machine.</li> </ul>
Injury to worker from hazards in the setting	Likelihood: C Consequence: 4 Rating = MODERATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Worker to assess environment and remove or isolate potential hazards.</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Worker to use pole pruner for small branches that are hard to reach rather than stretching with the chainsaw.</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Worker to look for and avoid wasps and other creatures in branches.</li> <li><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.</li> </ul>
Damage to eyes, hands and other parts of body from particles / branches cut by chainsaw	Likelihood: B Consequence: 3 Rating = HIGH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Worker to wear long sleeves and trousers to protect legs and arms.</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Worker to wear gloves to protect hands.</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eye and ear protection to be worn by worker.</li> </ul>
Manual handling injury from moving or using the chainsaw	Likelihood: D Consequence: 2 Rating = HIGH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Worker competent in manual handling.
Damage to property or animals from branches cut by chainsaw	Likelihood: C Consequence: 4 Rating = MODERATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Worker to assess environment and remove or isolate potential targets.
Vibration (white finger) injury from moving or using the chainsaw	Likelihood: C Consequence: 4 Rating = MODERATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Staff to alternate use between chainsaw and use other equipment between them from one job to the next.</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Staff to only use chainsaw for a maximum of 30 minutes before having a break.</li> </ul>
Fire or explosion from petrol fumes	Likelihood: C Consequence: 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Refuelling outdoors only and only when engine is OFF – no smoking and clean up any petrol spill before

	Rating = MODERATE	<p>starting the engine, petrol to be kept in shade and container closed when not in use.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Never refuel when engine is hot as split fuel may ignite.</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Never use if fuel is leaking from chainsaw as split fuel may ignite.</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fire extinguisher to be kept close to the refuelling area.</li> </ul>
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 chainsaw operated in confined space	Likelihood: E Consequence: 4 Rating = RARE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Do not operate chainsaw in a confined or unventilated space.

<i>Mercy Services equipment</i>	<i>Others equipment</i>
<p>Chainsaw, fuel, oil, fire extinguisher (CO<sup>2</sup>), harness for operator, Manufacturer’s instruction manual.</p> <p><b>Personal Protective Equipment Required:</b> mobile phone, yard work gloves, ear protection, eye protection, work boots, sunscreen.</p>	

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Worker behaviour</b>	<b>Client/other’s behaviour</b>
<b>Preparation</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ensure you are familiar with the handbook of instructions for use of the chainsaw.</li> <li>2. Check the work area and remove any hazards.</li> <li>3. Make sure the chainsaw is the right tool for the task at hand.</li> <li>4. Apply Personal Protective Equipment.</li> <li>5. Carefully transport the chainsaw to the work area.</li> <li>6. Check that the chainsaw is in good repair.</li> <li>7. Check that the chain is lubricated, sharp and that the tension is correct.</li> <li>8. Check that there is enough fuel and chain oil.</li> <li>9. Only start work if sure there will be enough daylight for the duration of work and clear up.</li> <li>10. 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.</li> </ol>	

<p><b>Operation</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Start chainsaw while placed on ground or stable surface.</li> <li>2. Hold the chainsaw firmly with both hands and maintain a secure grip. Using a loose grip can cause injury during kickbacks.</li> <li>3. Always begin your cut at peak revs.</li> <li>4. Stand to the side of the cutting path of the chainsaw - do not cut above shoulder height</li> <li>5. Never hold the chainsaw in one hand or by one handle only.</li> <li>6. Do not walk with chainsaw whilst blade is spinning.</li> <li>7. Turn off chain saw prior to refuelling. Refuel the chainsaw only after the engine has cooled down.</li> <li>8. Make sure your attention does not slip while operating the equipment – especially watch for trip hazards.</li> <li>9. Ensure your footing is solid – especially on slopes or wet ground.</li> <li>10. Rotate jobs or take rest breaks every 30 minutes to prevent fatigue or the development of vibration white finger.</li> <li>11. Stop and switch off the engine if machine becomes jammed or snagged on any object you are cutting. Do not use the machine again until you are sure that the chain is clear of any foreign objects and the entire machine is safe to operate.</li> <li>12. Do not use chainsaw if it is making unusual noise or vibration, investigate the cause and have repaired by dealer when required.</li> </ol>	<p><b>There should be no unauthorised / unprotected people or animals within 10 metres when the chainsaw is in use.</b></p>
<p><b>Completion</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ensure chain has stopped spinning before placing it on the ground.</li> <li>2. Use the chain guard (scabbard) when machine is carried or not in use.</li> <li>3. Allow the machine to cool if storing in confined space.</li> <li>4. Stop the engine whenever you leave the machine.</li> </ol>	

**As at 07/09/2016 this Safe Work Practice is authorised for use in:**

<i>Service</i>	<i>Position</i>
Home Maintenance	Maintenance Assistant

**Date for review of safe work practice:** September 2019 (or if injury or changes require)

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## COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT

### Chainsaw operation

Employee \_\_\_\_\_

Assessor \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Desired Outcome:**

To use chainsaw to remove branches or prune trees / hedges without injury.

**Knowledge required:**

Worker must have:

- read manufacturers operating manual for the Hedge Trimmer / Pole Pruner
- Statement of Attainment in accredited Operate and maintain chainsaws course within the past three years

Performance Criteria	Competence demonstrated	Comment
<b>Preparation.</b>		
1. Ensures familiarity with the handbook of instructions for use of the chainsaw		
2. Checks work area and removes any hazards.		
3. Makes sure the chainsaw is the right tool for the task at hand.		
4. Applies Personal Protective Equipment.		
5. Carefully transports the chainsaw to the work area.		
6. Check that the chainsaw is in good repair		
7. Checks that the chain is lubricated, sharp and that the tension is correct.		
8. Checks that there is enough fuel and chain oil.		
9. Only starts work if sure there will be enough daylight for the duration of work and clear up.		
10. Ensures 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.		
<b>Operation.</b>		
1. Starts chainsaw while placed on ground or stable surface.		
2. Holds the chainsaw firmly with both hands and maintain a secure grip.		
3. Always begins cut at peak revs.		
4. Stands to the side of the cutting path of the chainsaw - does not cut above shoulder height		

5. Never holds the chainsaw in one hand or by one handle only.		
6. Does not walk with chainsaw whilst blade is spinning.		
7. Turns off chain saw prior to refuelling. Refuels the chainsaw only after the engine has cooled down.		
8. Makes sure attention does not slip while operating the equipment – especially watch for trip hazards.		
9. Ensures footing is solid – especially on slopes or wet ground.		
10. Rotates jobs or takes rest breaks every 30 minutes.		
11. Stops and switches off the engine if machine becomes jammed or snagged on any object you are cutting. Does not use the machine again until sure that the chain is clear of any foreign objects and the entire machine is safe to operate.		
12. Does not use chainsaw if it is making unusual noise or vibration, investigates the cause and has repaired by dealer when required.		
<b>Completion.</b>		
1. Ensures chain has stopped spinning before placing it on the ground.		
2. Uses the chain guard (scabbard) when machine is carried or not in use.		
3. Allows the machine to cool if storing in confined space.		
4. Stops the engine whenever leaving the machine.		

Is the worker assessed as being competent?     YES     NO

Any required follow up action/training: \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature of Employee..... Date.....

Signature of Assessor ..... Date.....