

Green Waste Handling & Disposal

Risk Assessment

	CREW DETAILS
IN AN EMER	GENCY CALL:
Team Lead:	Task Phone Number:
Crew:	

TASK OVERVIEW				
Purpose of Task:		Date of Task:		

Task Benefit: Cuts transport needs through efficient segregation. | Delivers compliant, auditable waste management. | Increases recycling via composting and biomass use. | Maintains a professional, tidy working environment. | Reduces site clutter and overall fire load.

HAZARDS					
HAZARD	RISK	RISK BENEFIT	MEASURE	RISK TO	RISK LEVEL
Bioaerosols, mould and spores in waste	Respiratory irritation, asthma, illness	Allows treatment of aged or decomposed piles rather than landfilling them.	Treat mouldy loads as higher risk; avoid tearing bags. Dampen dusty waste; load gently to avoid bursts. Use FFP3 respirators when handling decomposed material; keep exposure time short. Wash hands before breaks; change contaminated PPE; segregate and label suspect loads. (ALL)	Operatives	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med
Cuts and punctures from hidden sharps	Cuts, puncture wounds, infection	Enables cost-effective hand sorting and recycling of mixed arisings.	Require heavy-duty puncture-resistant gloves; never compress bags by hand. Tip out waste onto a controlled surface and rake through before handling. Provide sharps kits, rigid containers and first-aid; brief crews to stop work and report contaminated loads immediately. (ALL)	Operatives	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med



HAZARD	RISK	RISK BENEFIT	MEASURE	RISK TO	RISK LEVEL
Dust inhalation during loading and sweeping	Respiratory irritation, asthma	Keeps operations moving in dry conditions and hardstanding yards.	Use damping (misting) during sweeping and loading; avoid dry tipping from height. Choose mechanical sweepers with onboard extraction. Provide FFP2/FFP3 respirators, enforce engine-off near sweep zones, and rotate tasks to reduce exposure duration for individuals. (ALL)	Operatives	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med
Fire and self- heating in green waste piles	Fire, smoke inhalation, burns	composting to recover value.	Avoid oversized stockpiles; maintain separation distances from structures and fuels. Keep piles dry and turned to limit heat build-up; prohibit hot works and smoking nearby. Carry extinguishers and water supply; monitor for smoke and call fire service early if needed. (ALL)	Operatives, public	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med
Heat stress and sun exposure	Heat exhaustion, dehydration	Maintains productivity during hot spells and peak demand.	Schedule heavy tasks for cooler periods; provide shade, water and rest breaks. Use lightweight breathable PPE, sun hats and SPF 30+; brief on heat illness signs. Pair workers to monitor each other and allow self-paced work; reassign if symptoms are reported. (ALL)	Operatives	Before Measure: Med After Measure: Med
Insect stings or nests disturbed in waste	Stings, allergic reaction, anaphylaxis		Inspect piles before moving; look for wasps, bees or ants. If activity is seen, cordon the area and stop handling. Provide long sleeves, head/neck protection and insect repellent; keep sting kits and train crews on anaphylaxis response with rapid access to medical help. (ALL)	Operatives, public	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med



HAZARD	RISK	RISK BENEFIT	MEASURE	RISK TO	RISK LEVEL
Lifting operations with HIABs or telehandlers	Dropped loads, crush injuries	Enables handling of heavy volumes and bulky items efficiently.	Only competent, authorised operators; pre- use checks and lift plans for bulk bags or bins. Use certified slings and lifting points; keep exclusion zones and tag lines. Lift slowly, avoid slewing over people, and never exceed SWL. Communicate via hand signals or radios. (ALL)	Operatives	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med
Lone working and poor communications	Delayed assistance, isolation risk	Enables flexible scheduling and rapid response to client needs.	Avoid lone work where possible; if unavoidable, use dynamic risk assessment and permit. Set check-in schedules via phone/app; provide man-down alarms and accurate location details. Define "no-go" tasks alone (e.g., tipping, lifting ops) and escalate if contact is missed. (ALL)	Operatives	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med
Manual handling of bags and branches	Back strain, hernia, slips	Efficient on-site sorting and quick clearance without waiting for machinery.	Plan collection routes to minimise carry distance; stage waste near access points. Use team lifts, dollies and drag sheets; keep loads close to the body and avoid twisting. Rotate tasks, set weight limits, and brief on safe lifting techniques; provide gloves with good grip. (ALL)	Operatives	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med
Slips, trips and uneven ground	Slips, trips, falls	Access across varied terrain so waste can be removed from all areas.	Survey routes before movement; clear trip hazards and mark holes, kerbs and slippery algae. Use anti-slip boots with ankle support; keep hands free by using trolleys where possible. Maintain tidy stacking, good lighting, and wet-weather protocols with slower pace and spotters. (ALL)	Operatives, public	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med



HAZARD	RISK	RISK BENEFIT	MEASURE	RISK TO	RISK LEVEL
Traffic interface when loading at kerbside	Collision with vehicles, cyclists, pedestrians	Allows kerbside pickups in constrained urban locations.	Plan work for off-peak times; set advance warning signs and cones to create a protected work zone. Wear high-visibility clothing; keep operatives inside the zone and vehicles parked to shield the team. Use a lookout to pause works for passing traffic, cyclists and pedestrians. (ALL)	Operatives, public	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med
Trailer or tipper instability and overturn	Overturning, crush injuries	Allows safe bulk movements and quick site turnaround.	Verify ground bearing capacity and gradients before tipping; keep people clear of the arc. Load evenly front-to-rear and side-to-side. Chock wheels where needed; never move with body raised. Follow manufacturer limits; halt in high winds and use spotters at transfer sites. (ALL)	Operatives, drivers	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med
Vehicle movements and reversing on site	Collision, crush injuries	Enables timely collections and tipping at busy sites.	Establish one-way systems and marked pedestrian routes; appoint a trained banksman for reversing. Fit vehicles with beepers and cameras; use radios for clear signals. Set speed limits, prohibit distractions, and stop work if sight lines or signals are lost. (ALL)	Operatives, public	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med
Working at height when sheeting or clearing loads	Falls, fractures, head injury	Facilitates proper sheeting, safer transport and compliance.	Use access platforms or fold-out steps with handrails; avoid climbing on loads. Fit ground-operated sheeting systems. Maintain three points of contact; keep edges clear of mud and ice. Set exclusion below; stop in high winds; wear fall-arrest only where a proper anchor is provided. (ALL)	Operatives	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med



HAZARD	RISK	RISK BENEFIT	MEASURE	RISK TO	RISK LEVEL
Allergic reactions to plants and sap	Rashes, swelling, eye irritation	Supports removal of nuisance species and safer public spaces.	Identify irritant species in advance; brief on symptoms. Provide long sleeves, eye protection and nitrile gloves; avoid rubbing eyes/skin. Wash with clean water after contact; carry antihistamines and ensure access to eyewash and first-aid with escalation if needed. (ALL)	Operatives	Before Measure: Med After Measure: Low
Chemical contamination in waste streams	Chemical burns, poisoning	Preserves recycling streams and avoids rejecting whole loads.	Reject loads with chemical odours or containers; isolate and label suspicious material. Provide chemical-resistant gloves and eye protection. Train teams to stop, secure the area and escalate to supervisor and waste contractor for hazardous waste handling. (ALL)	Operatives	Before Measure: High After Measure: Low
Cold, wet weather and wind chill	Hypothermia, frostbite, slips	Keeps services running through adverse weather and seasonal peaks.	Issue waterproof layered PPE and thermal gloves; keep spares available to change when soaked. Warm-up breaks in heated shelter with hot drinks; rotate cold-exposed tasks. Adjust pace, stop for lightning or severe gusts, and ensure vehicles provide emergency refuge. (ALL)	Operatives	Before Measure: Med After Measure: Low
Load security failure during transport	Falling debris, road accidents	Permits full loads and efficient journeys with minimal trips.	Use rated nets, sheets and ratchet straps; check anchor points and working load limits. Stack with low centre of gravity; interlock branches and avoid overfill. Conduct a tug test and walk-round before departure and re-tighten at first stop as materials settle. (ALL)	Operatives, public	Before Measure: High After Measure: Low



HAZARD	RISK	RISK BENEFIT	MEASURE	RISK TO	RISK LEVEL
Site rules and permit non- compliance	Access issues, enforcement action	Ensures access to third- party facilities and smooth turnaround.	Obtain site induction and permits before entry; follow traffic plans, PPE rules and tipping protocols. Keep paperwork accessible; use radios where required. Comply with weighbridge and segregation requirements; stop work and seek clarification if instructions conflict or conditions change. (ALL)	Operatives	Before Measure: Med After Measure: Low
Skips, bins and compactors pinch points	Hand injuries, crush injuries	Improves site tidiness and maximises capacity between collections.	Keep hands clear of lids, rollers and compactor slots; use tools to push waste in. Lock out compactors before clearing jams; isolate power and confirm zero-energy. Maintain safe access steps and non slip platforms; never ride in skips; set exclusion zones during bin exchange. (ALL)	Operatives	Before Measure: High After Measure: Low
Unpredicted risks	Illness, injury, death		Continuous risk monitoring conducted by all staff. Any unforeseen hazards must be reported promptly to supervisors or management, with immediate corrective action taken as necessary. (ALL)	All	N/A

	NO	TES	
Extra Notes & Activity Evalu	ation:		
Completed by	Reviewed/Approved by	Risk Assessment Date	Review Required Date