

CREW DETAILS

IN AN EMERGENCY CALL:

Team Lead:	Task Phone Number:
Crew:	

TASK OVERVIEW

Purpose of Task:	Date of Task:
Task Benefit: Controls overgrowth in hard-to-mow areas to maintain access. Creates tidy edges that improve overall presentation. Minimizes pest harborage near paths and work zones. Reduces fire load by removing dry vegetation and thatch. Reveals hidden hazards before further works proceed.	

HAZARDS

HAZARD	RISK	RISK BENEFIT	MEASURE	RISK TO	RISK LEVEL
Airborne dust and engine fumes	Respiratory irritation, headaches, nausea	Reduced reliance on herbicides through mechanical control.	Work upwind; avoid enclosed/confined spaces; damp down dusty vegetation; wear suitable respiratory protection when needed; keep engines tuned and exhausts sound; take breaks away from fumes; never run petrol engines in sheds or vans; store fuel sealed. (ALL)	Operators	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med
Fuel storage and refuelling	Burns, fire, explosions	Reliable operations without power supply constraints.	Refuel on bare ground away from ignition sources; let engine cool; use labelled containers and spouts; mix in ventilated areas; wipe spills and move 3 m before restart; keep extinguishers/spill kit accessible; secure fuel upright in vehicles; ban smoking/vaping nearby. (ALL)	Operators, environment	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med

HAZARD	RISK	RISK BENEFIT	MEASURE	RISK TO	RISK LEVEL
Hidden services and obstructions	Electric shock, damage to infrastructure, loss of control	Protects infrastructure while achieving neat edges.	Brief with site plans and client knowledge; mark known cables, irrigation, guy wires and edging; set standoff distances from brittle pipes and electric fences; reduce speed near unknowns; stop and hand-clear if resistance is felt; never cut behind blind obstacles. (ALL)	Operators, property	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med
Kickback from metal blades	Impact injury, lacerations, loss of control	Rapid cutting of brambles, saplings and scrub.	Fit only approved metal blades for the material; inspect and sharpen; avoid striking stumps, masonry or heavy stems beyond rating; cut with the lower quadrant, not the tip; hold firmly with neutral stance; never use chain/flail-type attachments; keep guard fitted. (ALL)	Operators	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med
Noise exposure	Hearing loss, fatigue, stress	Enables timely delivery of grounds contracts.	Select lower-noise tools/heads; keep equipment serviced; wear hearing protection rated for anticipated exposure; limit continuous run time with planned breaks and crew rotation; position others upwind and distant; monitor exposure where work is prolonged. (ALL)	Operators, others nearby	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med
Work near traffic and highways	Struck by vehicle, collision, distraction	Clear sightlines at junctions and signage.	Conduct a site-specific traffic plan; wear high-visibility garments; position cones/signs for buffer space; work facing traffic where feasible; use a lookout or barrier vehicle on faster roads; never step into the live carriageway with a running tool; park to protect. (ALL)	Operators, road users	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med

HAZARD	RISK	RISK BENEFIT	MEASURE	RISK TO	RISK LEVEL
Work near water and steep banks	Drowning, falls, slips	Maintains drainage and access around waterways.	Keep a set-back from edges; avoid undercut banks; use anti-slip footwear; employ buddy system and throwline where drowning risk exists; wear buoyancy aid if banks are unstable or work is within fall distance; cut from secure ground only; stop in high winds or spray. (ALL)	Operators	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med
Battery charging and transport	Fire, short circuit, burns	Quiet, low-disturbance work suitable for urban sites.	Use manufacturer chargers; inspect packs for damage; keep terminals covered; transport in cases, not loose with metal items; charge on non-combustible surfaces with space for cooling; avoid extreme heat/cold; remove battery before maintenance or transport. (ALL)	Operators	Before Measure: Med After Measure: Low
Biological hazards from plants and wildlife	Skin irritation, allergic reaction, infections	Supports habitat management through selective cutting.	Identify harmful plants and nesting seasons before work; wear gloves, long sleeves and eye/face protection; avoid strimming seed heads or contaminated areas downwind; apply insect repellent; perform tick checks; wash exposed skin; keep tetanus up to date. (ALL)	Operators	Before Measure: Med After Measure: Low
Competence, training and supervision	Incorrect use, increased accident risk, equipment damage	Professional finish with fewer incidents and call-backs.	Permit only trained, competent operators (e.g., Lantra/NPTC); give site-specific briefings on attachments/exclusions; supervise until signed off; refresh training periodically; prohibit unauthorised use; document briefings, pre-use checks and maintenance. (ALL)	Operators, employers	Before Measure: Med After Measure: Low

HAZARD	RISK	RISK BENEFIT	MEASURE	RISK TO	RISK LEVEL
Contact with rotating head or blade	Lacerations, amputations, bruises	Precise cutting around assets and boundaries.	Keep two-handed grip and use a correctly adjusted harness; never carry a running tool; wait for full stop before setting down; isolate power before clearing tangles; keep hands/feet behind guards; start and shut down on firm ground with the head clear of obstacles. (ALL)	Operators	Before Measure: High After Measure: Low
Entanglement in wire, netting or vegetation	Trips, loss of control, equipment damage	Efficient clearance of dense growth at low cost.	Walk the line to identify fence wire, mesh, lines and creepers; mark hazards; cut in short controlled passes; stop immediately if snagging occurs and isolate before clearing; avoid whipping actions that draw material into the head; use blades suited to material. (ALL)	Operators	Before Measure: Med After Measure: Low
Equipment defects and missing guards	Mechanical failure, injury from parts, loss of protection	High tool uptime and consistent results.	Pre-use check: guard/deflector fitted, fasteners tight, trigger lock and stop switch working, head/blade secure and balanced, harness sound; tag-out and replace defective parts; follow planned maintenance and recordkeeping; test run in a clear area before work. (ALL)	Operators	Before Measure: High After Measure: Low
Flying debris and projectiles	Eye injury, cuts, bruises, property damage	Fast, tidy vegetation control with minimal chemical use.	Survey and rake the strip to remove stones, glass and wire; fit the approved guard/deflector; wear visor plus safety glasses, long trousers and boots; keep a 15 m exclusion from people, pets, vehicles and glazing; angle the head to deflect away; ease off near hard edges. (ALL)	Operators, public, pets, property	Before Measure: High After Measure: Low

HAZARD	RISK	RISK BENEFIT	MEASURE	RISK TO	RISK LEVEL
Hand-arm vibration exposure	Numbness, tingling, circulatory damage	Sustained productivity without heavy machinery.	Choose low-vibration tools; keep line neatly wound and heads balanced; maintain blades sharp; adopt light, relaxed grip; track trigger time and rotate tasks; schedule warm-up and micro-breaks; wear warm, well-fitting gloves; remove from use any tool vibrating abnormally. (ALL)	Operators	Before Measure: Med After Measure: Low
Lone working and emergency response	Delayed rescue, lack of assistance, increased harm	Flexible deployment across dispersed sites.	Use a check-in/out system with agreed intervals; carry phone/radio and precise location info; keep first-aid kit and bleed control within reach; avoid high-risk tasks alone; define stop points for heat/cold; ensure access routes for responders remain clear. (ALL)	Operators	Before Measure: Med After Measure: Low
Manual handling and posture strain	Back pain, fatigue, muscle strain	Consistent finish quality over large areas.	Set harness height/balance so the head just floats; keep elbows close, swap lead hand periodically, and vary stance; break loads into smaller lifts; split tool/attachments for transport; use team lifts for fuel and spares; store at waist height to avoid awkward reaches. (ALL)	Operators	Before Measure: Med After Measure: Low
Public, pets and bystanders	Injury from debris, distress, property damage	Improved public amenity and customer satisfaction.	Schedule off-peak; set a 15 m exclusion with signs/cones or a spotter; stop cutting if anyone enters the zone; coordinate with occupiers to confine pets; face the head away from paths and windows; cover or move vehicles and fragile items before work starts. (ALL)	Public, pets, operators	Before Measure: High After Measure: Low

HAZARD	RISK	RISK BENEFIT	MEASURE	RISK TO	RISK LEVEL
Slips, trips and unstable footing	Falls, strains, sprains	Maintains safe access and reduces long-term trip risks.	Plan cut path; clear underfoot hazards; wear ankle-support boots with good tread; work across slopes with stable stance and no overreach; keep both feet on the ground (no ladders/steps); stop on loose ground; use the harness to balance and rest between passes. (ALL)	Operators	Before Measure: Med After Measure: Low
Tool change and maintenance tasks	Cuts, pinch injuries, burns	Longer service life and fewer breakdowns.	Isolate power (spark plug cap/battery removed); work on stable bench; use blade clamp and correct spanner/torque; fit approved parts only; balance heads/blades; sheath metal blades for transport; recheck fasteners after first run; dispose of worn parts safely. (ALL)	Operators	Before Measure: Med After Measure: Low
Weather and environmental conditions	Heat stress, cold stress, reduced visibility	Year-round site upkeep and presentation.	Defer in lightning, high winds or poor visibility; in heat, plan shade/water breaks, sun protection and lighter PPE layers; in wet/cold, use anti-slip footwear and waterproofs; adjust pace for reduced grip/traction; stop at dusk if lighting is inadequate. (ALL)	Operators	Before Measure: Med 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

NOTES

Extra Notes & Activity Evaluation:

Completed by

Reviewed/Approved by

Risk Assessment Date

Review Required Date