

CREW DETAILS

IN AN EMERGENCY CALL:

Team Lead:		Task Phone Number:	
Crew:			

TASK OVERVIEW

Purpose of Task:		Date of Task:	
Task Benefit: Converts bulky brush into manageable mulch. Enables on-site reuse for weed suppression and moisture retention. Keeps work areas tidy and accessible during operations. Reduces transport volume and disposal costs. Speeds clearance to minimize disruption to clients.			

HAZARDS

HAZARD	RISK	RISK BENEFIT	MEASURE	RISK TO	RISK LEVEL
Kickback of branches	Blunt trauma, facial injury, loss of balance	Maintains pace while preventing operator fatigue from wrestling awkward timber.	Prune forks and side branches to reduce snagging, stand to one side of the infeed, and keep stable footing. Use two-person control for awkward limbs. Do not force crooked lengths; let rollers grip and draw. Pause and re-present if movement becomes unpredictable. (ALL)	Operators	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med
Machine roll-away	Runaway vehicle, crush injury	Enables safe positioning close to work, reducing drag distances for brush.	On slopes park across the fall line, apply park brake and chocks, drop the hopper, and use wheel chocks front and rear. Disconnect from tow vehicle only on level ground. Keep exclusion during coupling/uncoupling and use a spotter for alignment. (ALL)	Operators, ground crew	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med

HAZARD	RISK	RISK BENEFIT	MEASURE	RISK TO	RISK LEVEL
Towing and transport	Road collision, load shift, detachment	Legal, reliable transport between jobs with minimal downtime.	Pre-trip checks: breakaway cable, hitch lock, lights, tyres, wheel nuts, VIN and weight compliance. Secure guards and close hopper. Use rated straps at manufacturer points. Drive within speed limits and allow increased stopping distances. (ALL)	Drivers, road users	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med
Traffic proximity	Vehicle strike, near miss	Safe kerbside operations in tight streets, enabling access to more jobs.	Use cones, signage and high-viz; create a safe loading zone off the carriageway. Employ a trained banksman for reversing and maintain radio/hand signals. Turn chute away from traffic and clear brash before moving vehicles. (ALL)	Operators, road users	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med
Adverse weather	Reduced visibility, loss of control	Maintains programme while avoiding weather-related incidents.	Stop for lightning or severe winds. Improve task lighting in low light; fit rain covers for controls and use gritted walkways in ice. Reschedule when high winds risk branch fall from overhead trees; reassess after weather shifts. (ALL)	Operators, ground crew	Before Measure: Med After Measure: Low
Chute blockage	Impact during clearing, unexpected restart	Keeps throughput high by restoring flow safely after inevitable wet or leafy loads.	Idle engine to a stop, isolate ignition, remove key and wait for all movement to cease. Use tools, not hands, to clear blockages. Confirm guards closed and interlocks engaged before restart. Brief "lock-out-tag-out" steps and record restarts. (ALL)	Operators, maintenance staff	Before Measure: High After Measure: Low
Communication failure in noisy environments	Missed stop signal, unsafe action	Smooth teamwork and rapid stop capability even when hearing protection and engine noise reduce normal communication.	Confirm hand signals before work and practice them in briefing. Use radios or agreed visual signals when noise or PPE restricts speech. Pause work if signals unclear. Supervisors check crew understanding during operations. (ALL)	Operators, ground crew	Before Measure: High After Measure: Low

HAZARD	RISK	RISK BENEFIT	MEASURE	RISK TO	RISK LEVEL
Dust and spores	Respiratory irritation, eye irritation	Allows chipping near properties without nuisance dust and complaints.	Orient discharge downwind, mist arisings in dry weather, and avoid dry sweeping. Wear FFP3 or powered respirator when loading dusty loads (e.g., dead wood). Provide eyewash and hygiene facilities; launder workwear and wash hands before breaks. (ALL)	Operators, ground crew, neighbours	Before Measure: Med After Measure: Low
Electrical hazards	Electrocution, burns, fire	Allows safe chipping near streets and gardens where services are present, without utility damage or power outages.	Survey site for overhead lines, buried cables and nearby utilities before positioning chipper. Maintain statutory clearance distances and brief crew. Stop work immediately if contact suspected and report to utility provider. (ALL)	Operators, ground crew, public	Before Measure: High After Measure: Low
Entanglement at infeed	Drawing-in injury, crush injury, amputation	Rapid volume reduction of branches without excessive manual cutting, improving job efficiency.	Feed butt-end first with a firm push using a push tool; never reach beyond the infeed line. Wear snug clothing, no dangling cords, and tie back hair. Test emergency stop and reverse before work. Keep only one feeder in the bite zone and maintain clear communication. (ALL)	Operators, ground crew	Before Measure: High After Measure: Low
Ergonomic strain	Back strain, shoulder injury	Sustained pace with reduced fatigue over long shifts.	Stage brush at waist height on saw horses where possible, alternate lead side, and team-carry heavy or awkward limbs. Keep rotations short with micro-breaks. Train in neutral spine and foot placement for repeat feeds. (ALL)	Operators	Before Measure: Med After Measure: Low

HAZARD	RISK	RISK BENEFIT	MEASURE	RISK TO	RISK LEVEL
Exhaust fumes	Headache, nausea, CO exposure	Permits powerful on-site processing without indoor air quality issues.	Do not run engines in enclosed or semi-confined spaces. Position machine upwind of crew and building intakes. Use CO monitors in courtyards, and extend exhaust outside if unavoidable. Plan breaks away from fume plumes and maintain engines to spec. (ALL)	Operators, public	Before Measure: Med After Measure: Low
Fire risk	Ignition of dry arisings, property damage	Enables safe summer operations even in parched conditions.	Clear arisings from hot surfaces; carry suitable extinguishers and water. Enforce a no-smoking zone. Pause work during high wildfire risk and inspect chute/hopper areas during and after tasks for smouldering. (ALL)	Operators, public	Before Measure: High After Measure: Low
Flying debris	Eye injury, cuts, bruises	Faster processing of arisings on site, leaving tidy areas and reducing multiple manual handling trips for disposal.	Establish a 15 m exclusion zone in the discharge direction, use barriers and a banksman, angle the chute away from people and glazing, and stop if anyone breaches the zone. Wear EN166 face/eye protection and long sleeves; inspect knives/anvils so chip size and throw are controlled. (ALL)	Operators, ground crew, public	Before Measure: High After Measure: Low
Foreign objects in brash	Projectile, machine damage	Protects equipment and schedule while achieving clean chip.	Survey and remove wire, fencing, stones and metal. Use a magnet sweep on yard arisings. Start with smaller test feeds from new piles; stop if vibration or noise changes. Record and brief on any finds before resuming. (ALL)	Operators	Before Measure: High After Measure: Low

HAZARD	RISK	RISK BENEFIT	MEASURE	RISK TO	RISK LEVEL
Fuel handling	Burns, spill, fire	Keeps operations moving without pollution or burn incidents.	Refuel with engine off and cool, in ventilated areas with spill kit ready. Use UN-approved cans, funnels, and absorbents; keep ignition sources away. Store fuel segregated and transport upright. Dispose of contaminated materials correctly. (ALL)	Operators	Before Measure: High After Measure: Low
Hand-arm vibration	Vibration-related injury, numbness	Retains skilled staff by controlling long-term harm while maintaining productivity.	Keep knives balanced and bearings maintained to minimise vibration. Rotate tasks to limit trigger time with saws and handling. Wear warm, dry gloves to maintain circulation and avoid excessive grip. Record exposure points and review controls periodically. (ALL)	Operators	Before Measure: Med After Measure: Low
Inadequate briefing	Miscommunication, unsafe actions	Crisp coordination that speeds throughput and reduces rework.	Run a toolbox talk covering feed roles, stop signals, exclusion zones, traffic plan, and emergency stops. New starters shadow a competent operator. Supervisor completes dynamic reviews at breaks and after any deviation from plan. (ALL)	All crew	Before Measure: Med After Measure: Low
Knife maintenance	Laceration, handling injury, dropped objects	Sharp, balanced knives improve cut quality and reduce thrown debris and noise.	Isolate machine, use cut-resistant gloves, magnetic lifters and a clear bench. Follow torque settings, use locking hardware, and verify balance and knife projection per manual. Store sharp edges sheathed and dispose of damaged knives via approved contractor. (ALL)	Operators, mechanics	Before Measure: High After Measure: Low

HAZARD	RISK	RISK BENEFIT	MEASURE	RISK TO	RISK LEVEL
Noise exposure	Hearing loss, fatigue, poor communication	Protects hearing while allowing sustained, efficient chipping in busy schedules.	Measure site noise; enforce suitable hearing protection with adequate SNR. Position crew upwind and outside infeed zone. Maintain knives, anvils and exhaust to keep levels down. Limit exposure by rotation and rest breaks, and use hand signals/radios. (ALL)	Operators, ground crew	Before Measure: High After Measure: Low
Overhead branches and falling objects	Head injury, concussion, impact	Safe siting under trees ensures continuous work without risk from falling debris.	Inspect canopy above chipper location for deadwood and unstable limbs before setup. Wear helmets with chinstraps. Relocate chipper if risk remains. Stop operations if climbing or rigging ongoing overhead. (ALL)	Operators, ground crew	Before Measure: High After Measure: Low
Public interface	Third-party entry, pet interference	Lets work proceed in residential streets without incidents or complaints.	Set barriers and "No entry - chipping" signs; appoint a banksman to control pedestrians and pause feed when public approach. Brief homeowners and neighbours; schedule noisy work considerately. Keep dogs on leads away from the work bubble. (ALL)	Public, clients, operators	Before Measure: High After Measure: Low
Security and unauthorised use	Public injury, machine theft, tampering	Keeps public safe from tampering while reducing theft risk and avoiding costly downtime or liability.	Never leave machine running unattended. Remove ignition key and lock hitch when not in use. Park in visible secure areas, use wheel clamps or chains, and brief crew on end-of-day security checks. (ALL)	Public, operators, clients	Before Measure: High After Measure: Low
Slips, trips and footing	Falls, sprains, strains	Reduces minor injuries and keeps productivity steady throughout the day.	Keep feed area free of offcuts; stage brash to one side and maintain a defined approach path. Use anti-slip mats on wet or frozen ground. Wear ankle-supporting boots and maintain good housekeeping with periodic halts to clear debris. (ALL)	Operators, ground crew	Before Measure: Med After Measure: Low

HAZARD	RISK	RISK BENEFIT	MEASURE	RISK TO	RISK LEVEL
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