

Risk assessment – Use of Strimmer

All employers must conduct a risk assessment. If you have fewer than five employees you don't have to write anything down.

Company name: MARDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Date of risk assessment: February 2023

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What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing?	Do you need to do anything else to control this risk?	Action by who?
Items thrown up from use of strimmer	Risk of injury by: Staff Anyone in the vicinity	Staff trained on correct use of strimmers (new staff supervised until Line Manager is satisfied on level of competence) Staff ensure that all safety measures are in place before use Prior to starting strimming staff remove any stones, branches or debris from area to be mowed Staff are supplied with correct PPE including hard hat and visor, goggles, ear defenders, gloves and safety boots and staff are trained to use correctly Strimmers are serviced annually and maintained regularly Any broken or damaged machinery must not be used until repaired, or replaced	PPE to be kept up to date. Any items to be replaced to be reported to Clerk/Deputy Clerk.	Clerk / Deputy Clerk Caretakers
Lone Working	Working alone present the risk of an employee being unable to summon help if required Staff	All staff carry a charged phone at all times Location of all staff is known by the Clerk/Deputy Clerk Employees issued with a first aid kit		Clerk / Deputy Clerk Caretaker
Slips, trips and falls	Risk of injury Staff	Staff fully trained in correct use of strimmers Staff to ensure a secure footing throughout strimming operation Staff fully briefed on hazards present on each site All obstacles, trip hazards are removed before starting work Staff are supplied with the correct PPE Equipment to be cleaned after use and checked for damage, replacement etc When working on steep slopes specific site and weather conditions should be assessed before start. If deemed unsafe, work is postponed Work working on slopes, staff work in straight lines across face of the slope		

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What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing?	Do you need to do anything else to control this risk?	Action by who?
Hand, Arm Vibration (HAV) Syndrome	Prolonged and repeated use of strimmer presents risk of HAV syndrome which can cause permanent damage to fingers, hands, wrists and arms Staff	Staff fully trained in the use of the strimmer Staff wear gloves when operating trimmers Staff to take regular, short breaks and to switch off strimmer throughout work operations Staff instructed to ensure hands are kept warm throughout trimming operations Staff instructed to stop work immediately if tingling, blanching (loss of colour), pain or numbness in hands, fingers or wrists occur and report to Clerk Staff instructed not to use too hard/tight grip when using strimmer	Staff to report to Clerk/Deputy Clerk of any concerns as soon as possible after experiencing any symptoms.	Clerk /Deputy Clerk Caretakers
Hearing loss	Damage to hearing from prolonged and repeated use of strimmer Staff	Staff fully trained in the use of the strimmer Staff issued with ear defenders Staff trained in correct use of PPE	Ensure correct PPE is used. Clerk/Deputy Clerk to be informed if low on any equipment.	Caretakers
Moving Parts	Risk of harm from moving parts of the strimmer Staff	Staff fully trained in the use of the strimmer Trimmers subject to regular inspection and maintenance Staff inspect switched-off trimmers before and after every use. If damaged or worn strimmer not to be used until repaired Users ensure no parts of their body is near the moving parts of the machine whilst it is in use	Clerk/Deputy Clerk to be informed of any damage/worn equipment.	Caretakers
Collisions	Risk of being hit by moving vehicles when working by roadsides etc	Staff fully trained in the use of the strimmer Staff wear Hi-Viz jackets/vest at all times Staff vigilant of who/what is around them Staff instructed to undertake trimming by roadsides in pairs Staff NEVER to step in the road to trim around tree roots etc		Caretakers
Risk of explosion / inhalation of fumes	Risk of harm from fire, explosion and inhalation of fumes Staff Anyone in the vicinity	Trimmers fueled only in areas away from all sources of ignition Trimmers fueled outside, never indoors or in a confined space Trimmers fueled using a funnel After filling, filler cap is secured and all spillages and drips wiped clean Strimmer removed from fueling area before starting Masks to be worn during fueling		Caretakers

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What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing?	Do you need to do anything else to control this risk?	Action by who?
Unauthorised use	Unauthorised use of the strimmer could result in serious injury to the operator and anyone in the vicinity Staff Anyone in the vicinity	Strimmers must never be left unattended When not in use store in locked compound		Caretakers