

Operation of Telescopic (Pole)
Chainsaw to Cut Vegetation
SWMS #5

Safe Work Method Statement
Required for all High Risk Activities identified for the Project




* This column is used to undertake frequent Workplace Audits/Inspection to verify controls are in place.

If a control measure is "ongoing" indicate: "ONGOING". If "one off" action required i.e. to eliminate a hazard in the workplace a sign off is required from person responsible for implementation of the action.

THIS PROJECT RISK ASSESSMENT/SWMS MUST BE AUTHORISED AS CORRECT AND APPLICABLE BY A DIRECTOR OR OHS MANAGER & the PROJECT MANAGER & SUPERVISOR PRIOR TO USE
LATEST UPDATES ARE SHADED!!

ADDRESS: Various JOB ACTIVITY: Operation of a Telescopic (pole) Chainsaw to cut vegetation SWMS No: 5 SWMS Date: 28/1/15	Site Supervisor : Various Last Review Date: : 14/11/16 SWMS must be reviewed whenever necessary eg. If something changes or there is an incident or near miss.	OHS Regulations, Codes & Standards Reviewed By: All Staff
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Task/Item/ Job Step	Hazards Identified <i>Situation that could cause injury or illness when task is performed.</i>	Risk rating	Practical Risk Control Measures/Job Method <i>List control measures required to eliminate or minimise the risk of injury from the identified hazard in accordance with the HIERARCHY OF RISK CONTROL MEASURES.</i>	Control	Permit to Work/ Competency Required? YES/NO Type	Responsible Supervisor or above to implement control action	#Action Taken Sign Off	*Audit Check Off * or ✓
Names of staff that have read and understand this SWMS: Stephen Bayley, Angus Cullenward, Daniel Bayley, Ashley Morrison, David Smith								
Review Work Planned for the day	Unsuitable Plant, Equipment or Tools	2	Conduct daily safety inspection of tools, including chain, shaft, exhaust guard, throttle, start/stop switch. Ensure chainsaw maintenance as per manufacturer recommendations Ensure spark arrestor fitted and functional	5	NO	FIELD CREW		
Emergency Preparedness	Unsuitable communication plan Unsuitable First Aid Kit or Spill Kit	2 2 2	Identify means of emergency communication with external parties Ensure First Aid and Spill Kit are stocked and accessible Ensure current MSDS available on vehicle	5		FIELD CREW		
Fuelling	Flammable hazard Inhalation and skin contact hazard Fuel Spill hazard	2 2 2	Refuel in well ventilated area, ensure machine is off when refuelling, only allow fuel in approved containers Ensure fire extinguisher is present and serviceable Wear gloves, refer MSDS for action required if skin contact or spill	4 5 6		FIELD CREW		
Transporting Fuel and Oil	Fuel or Oil spill	2	Ensure only approved containers are used for storage and transport of fuels and oils Ensure spill kit available and fit for use, personnel trained in use Ensure applicable MSDS are available on vehicle Ensure secure Fuel and Oil storage area on vehicle	3 5		FIELD CREW		
Driving to/ Arriving at Site	Road Traffic Fatigue Unlicensed driver	1 1 2	Ensure all applicable road laws and speed limits are observed Take regular breaks, rotate drivers if applicable Carry current endorsed licence on person at all times	5				

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Setting up site/ Pre start checks	Movement of vehicles	1	Conduct a worksite Hazard Assessment and complete HAC,	2		FIELD CREW		
	Structures/Services	1	Visually inspect site for services/structures, delineate if necessary	5				
	Falls of people (incl. trips/slips)	1	Adjust piece size to ensure control of all cut material	6				
	Noise	2	Ensure all equipment is correctly stowed when not in use to prevent trip hazard	3				
	Dangerous Animals	2	Ensure PPE available and utilised	4				
	Traffic / Pedestrians	1	Visual inspection for any animals, contact owner to restrain or remove animals	3				
Proximity to electrical power conductors/lines	1	Delineate worksite and utilise Safety Observer	3					
		1	Ensure any tool or body part remains outside minimum clearance distances from conductors. (1.5m for HV, clear of LV)	3				
			Estimate height of conductors using a geometric estimation (stick method) with a 20% safety factor	3				
Sharpening Chain	Cuts	2	Replace chain guard when not in use, wear appropriate gloves,	2		FIELD CREW		
	Burns	2	replace/sharpen chain as required	5				
	Incorrect technique resulting in uneven chain	2	Restrain saw whilst sharpening, use correct tools, ensure chain sharpening is even along chain					
Using a mechanical unslated polesaw or an unslated manual polesaw in a tree near power lines.	Electrocution, back strain	1	<p style="color: red;">Do not use a mechanical unslated pole saw in a tree.</p> <p style="color: red;">Do not use an unslated manual pole saw in a tree.</p> <p style="color: red;">Substitute by using a top handled saw or insulated manual pole saw instead.</p> <p style="color: red;">Always stay aware of where the electrical assets are at all times.</p>	2 5		FIELD CREW		

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 Risk Control Type Hierarchy Key: 1 = Eliminate, 2 = Substitute, 3 = Isolate, 4 = Engineering, 5 = Administrative, 6 = PPE


Risk Rating Key: 1 = potential for death or serious injury, 2 = potential to cause serious or lost time injury, 3 = potential to cause injury that are treatable with first aid

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Assess vegetation to be actioned	Broken or split branches, structural defects, vines, Wasp and insect sting Proximity of vegetation to electrical hazard	1	Use ropes/rigging to control branches, adjust piece size	4				
		3	Inspect tree prior to cutting, remove insects if possible, reschedule work	5				
	1	Utilise safety observer, operate to qualified limits of approach	4					
	Foreign objects	2	Visual inspection of tree prior to cutting, remove any objects identified	4				
	Unstable platform/footing	3	Ensure stable platform less than 1.8m in height to stand when cutting so balance may be maintained at all time. Do not operate from elevated position unless specific hazard assessment is completed. Do not use telescopic chainsaws on ladders.	4				
Clear Vegetation	Unsafe work practice Kickback	1	Ensure all personnel have current training for task	5		FIELD CREW		
		4	Correct use of sharp saw, always use both hands to control saw, adjust stance as necessary to maintain control of saw, avoid cutting with tip of bar	4				
		1	Utilise safety observer, operate to qualified limits of approach	4				
	Falling objects/branches Flying particles Dust and debris entering eyes Manual Handling	2	Safety observer to ensure no-one enters drop zone	3				
		2	Maintain safe distance from other personnel, minimum 2 metres	3				
		2	Utilise eye protection	6				
2	Adjust piece size, utilise team lifting	4						

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<p><i>Cutting vegetation with an uninsulated pole saw</i></p>	<p><i>Electrocution Back or shoulder sprain</i></p>		<p><i>Always estimate the line height using the triangulation method and factor in a 20% safety margin eg: if it is estimated that the line is 10 meters above ground level then assume that the line is only 8 meters from the ground. If there is any doubt to the line height then leave that job and come back when convenient with an insulated hv measuring stick.</i></p> <p><i>Always ensure that the vegetation being cut will not be able to touch the line when it falls.</i></p> <p><i>Always ensure 1.5m body or uninsulated equipment clearance from power lines.</i></p> <p><i>Always ensure 1m clearance from power lines for vegetation – unless a specific risk assessment has been performed.</i></p> <p><i>Remember: telescopic saws are a long conductive pole – operators must remain vigilant when working near power lines and ensure that safe clearances are maintained.</i></p> <p>Pole saws to be extended NO FURTHER than 2.3m in total length when working around HV</p> <p>This requirement will allow us to put a CONTROL in place to ensure any uncontrolled movement will not allow a pole saw to come into contact with HV</p> <p>LV gloves are to be worn when working in vicinity of LV when using a Pole Saw. All Pole saw use around LV must be completed in</p>	<p>1 2 5</p>		<p>FIELD CREW</p>		
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			accordance with the distances specified in the green book.					
Clean up worksite	Slip or trip hazard Blockage of drainage lines Poor workmanship Injury from tool or equipment Vehicle/Equipment damage or loss	2	Ensure any ground surface disturbance is returned to pre-work state or cordoned off until such works can be undertaken. Traffic control is the last item to be removed from the site. Ensure all debris is removed from site or stacked neatly Ensure site is checked prior to departure for professional finish Isolate and disconnect tools, fit protective covers/sleeves prior to stowing Ensure all items are securely stowed in appropriate locker and/or tied down prior to travelling between sites	5 5 5 3 4		FIELD CREW		

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Plant & Equipment to be Used	Inspection and maintenance checks carried out
PPE – Hard hat, Ear muffs, Gloves, Cut resist pants, steel cap boots, Protective eyewear	Helmet replaced 2 yr from date of issue, In serviceable condition, fit for purpose Pre use, Ankle high lace up in good condition
First Aid Kit	Replenish stock as required, annual inspection
Fire extinguisher	Fit for purpose – annual inspection
Chainsaw	Daily inspection including check of “chain brake”
Petrol/Oil	Visual Check for leaks
Oil Spill Kit	Fit for purpose – Bi-annual inspection

Qualification/training required for this activity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manual Handling • Hearing Conservation • Worksite Traffic Management (1 on site) • First Aid Level 2 • Chainsaw Level 1
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The persons (employees, subcontractors and others) that have signed below:


1. been involved in the hazard/risk assessment and the determination of the hazard/risk controls applicable to their tasks, duties and responsibilities
2. had all hazards and risk controls have been communicated to them
3. and are fully aware of and understand the hazards/risks and safety risk controls and rules required
4. agreed to all the hazard/risk controls
5. agreed to and understand their Duty of Care to themselves and others
6. agreed that they are the person responsible for site supervision of the work, inspecting and approving work areas, work methods, compliance with SWMS, protective measures, plant, equipment and power tools.

Print name clearly date a sign here:

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OHS Regulations, Codes, Standards reviewed and incorporated in developing the risk control measures contained in this document:			
OHS Regulations (Vic).		Codes of Practice & Standards	
Occupational Health and Safety (Asbestos) Regulations 2007	✓	Confined Spaces (September 2008)	✓
Occupational Health and Safety (Manual Handling) Regulations 2007	✓	Removing Asbestos in Workplaces (September 2008)	
Occupational Health and Safety (Prevention of Falls) Regulations 2007	✓	Dangerous Goods Storage and Handling (No. 27, 2000)	
Occupational Health and Safety (Confined Spaces) Regulations 2007		First Aid in the Workplace (September 2008)	✓
Occupational Health and Safety (Plant) Regulations 2007	✓	Prevention of Falls in General Construction (September 2008)	✓
Occupational Health and Safety (High Risk Work) Regulations 2007	✓	Hazardous Substances (No. 24, June 2000)	✓
Occupational Health and Safety (Hazardous Substances) Regulations 2007	✓	Plant (No. 19, 1995)	✓
Occupational Health and Safety (Lead) Regulations 2007		Plant (Amendment No 1) (No. 23, 1998)	
Occupational Health and Safety (Hazardous Industries) Regulations 2007	✓	Safety Precautions in Trenching Operations (No. 8, 1998)	
Occupational Health and Safety (Licences and Registration) Regulations 2007	✓	Manual Handling (No. 25, 2000)	✓
Occupational Health and Safety Act, 2004	✓	Manual of uniform traffic control Devices AS1742.3-2009	✓
Road Management Act 2004		Electrical Installations – Construction and Demolition Sites AS3012	
Road Management Regulations 2005		In Service Safety & Inspection of Electrical Equipment AS370	
Occupational Health and Safety Noise Regulations 2007	✓	Safe Working in a Confined Space AS2865	

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