

DATE:

Activity:		Grass Cutting – Strimmer / Brushcutter		Assessment By: Lesley Reeson		
Activity	Hazards	Who might be harmed	Risk Level (H, M, L)	Controls	Residual Risk Level (H, M, L)	Comments
Use of Strimmer / Brushcutter	Personal Injury	Operatives	H	<p>Training. Correct PPE to be worn, First Aid Kit to be available.</p> <p>Strimmer never to be left unattended. Be aware of the general public. Stop strimming if members of the public approach the working area.</p>	M	Only use trained operatives
Use of Strimmer / Brushcutter	Flying Debris	Other operatives / public	M	<p>Check before using strimmer / brushcutter and remove any loose debris. Check area for stones or other material and remove.</p> <p>Strimming to be carried with back toward traffic where and when it is safe to do so Remain vigilant to the public at all times. Eye protection at all times during this operation.</p> <p>Ensure works are clearly signed for the benefit of the public.</p>	L	Use only trained operatives.

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Use of Strimmer / Brushcutter	Striking of hidden objects, stones, manhole covers etc.	Staff, operatives and general public	H	Visual check of area for any stones, raised manhole covers, old posts etc.	L	
Damaging surface laid electricity cables / communication cables with Strimmer / Brushcutter	Electric Shock, burns, fatality / Disconnection of services	Operatives	L	Visual check of area for surface laid / shallow services prior to carrying out grass cutting works. All exposed cables to be reported to the appropriate stats company immediately.	L	Report all unburied cables immediately to the Supervisor for reporting to the appropriate stats company.
On site maintenance of Strimmer / Brushcutter	Entrapment, hit by moving parts.	Operatives	H	Ensure motor is fully closed down and the engine given time to cool. Use only trained operatives to change blades, pull cords or plugs. Place machine on firm level surface.	L	Ensure proper tools are used.

Updated
01/04/2024Next review
01/04/2025

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Use of Strimmer / Brushcutter	Unauthorised use	Staff, operatives and general public	L	Strimmer never to be left unattended.	L	
Use of Strimmer / Brushcutter	Striking of hidden objects, stones, manhole covers etc.	Staff, operatives and general public	H	Visual check of area for any stones, raised manhole covers, old posts etc.	L	
Damaging surface laid electricity cables / communication cables with Strimmer / Brushcutter	Electric Shock, burns, fatality / Disconnection of services	Operatives	L	Visual check of area for surface laid / shallow services prior to carrying out grass cutting works. All exposed cables to be reported to the appropriate stats company immediately.	L	Report all unburied cables immediately to the Supervisor for reporting to the appropriate stats company.
On site maintenance of Strimmer / Brushcutter	Entrapment, hit by moving parts.	Operatives	H	Ensure motor is fully closed down and the engine given time to cool. Use only trained operatives to change blades, pull cords or plugs. Place machine on firm level surface.	L	Ensure proper tools are used.
Use of Strimmer / Brushcutter	Unauthorised use	Staff, operatives and general public	L	Strimmer never to be left unattended.	L	

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01/04/2024Next review
01/04/2025

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Use of Strimmer / Brushcutter	Hand & Arm Vibration	Operatives	H	Mandatory wearing of ear defenders for operatives. Job rotation by trained operatives only. Reduce exposure.	M	Ensure operatives have a copy of the Hand & Arm Vibration Policy
Use of Strimmer / Brushcutter	Vibration	Operatives	M	Equipment to be properly maintained. Job rotation by trained operatives only. Reduce exposure. Gloves to be worn.	M	Only use trained operatives.
Fuelling Machine	Fire, Explosion	Staff, operatives, general public & Environment	H	No smoking. Fuel to be in proper container and stored away from sources of ignition. Use funnel or proper nozzle when pouring. Clean up spills immediately using dry spill granules. Ensure Fire Extinguisher is available nearby.	M	Only use trained operatives. No refuelling to take place in the vicinity of forms of ignition. Fuel to be stored in secure place away from direct sunlight and sources of ignition. Operatives to be briefed on safe fuelling of machines.

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