

# Axewoods Co-operative

## GENERIC RISK ASSESSMENT

### CHAINSAWS

GENERIC 'HAZARD' CONTROL MEASURES = All operators trained and competent (NPTC CS30-50 as appropriate). Manufacturer's instruction manual available. All guards, safety features and warnings in place. Regular machine maintenance and servicing. INDG – HSE INDG317 "Chainsaws at work": AFAG/FISA Safety Guides 301-308 HSE INDG 362 "Noise at Work". HSE INDG 363 "Protect your hearing or lose it" HS (G) 88 "Guide to Hand Arm Vibration": INDG317 "Chainsaws at work"; HSE 246/31 "Reducing Risks of HAV Injury From Hand Held Power Tools";

#### 1. General use and maintenance

Ref:	Hazard	Risk	Persons at risk	Risk level	Control measures	Residual Risk	Further Action Required?
a	Fuelling, (petrol two stroke oil)	1.Fire/explosion: burns/blast injuries. 2. Skin contact: irritation / dermatitis	Work team/ client/general public	Prob. – M Sev. - VH = HIGH	No smoking. Shaded fuelling site. Safe distance from any ignition source. Correct sealed containers. Saw fuel caps replaced securely. PPE - gloves	Prob. – L Sev. – H = MOD.	Periodic staff meeting reviews and on site auditing for compliance.
b	Maintenance: chain / bar	Cuts from chain / bar / hand tools	Work team	Prob. – M Sev. – L = MOD.-LOW	Avoid bare hand contact with chain and bar. Use of appropriate tools. Ensure files have handles. PPE - gloves	Prob. – L Sev. – VL = LOW	None
c	Noise (typically upto 105dcb)	Noise Induced Hearing Loss / Deafness (accumulative over time)	Saw operator/ work team	Prob. – VH Sev. – VH = V.HIGH	Purchase lowest decibel saws. Correct saw maintenance (exhaust baffles, chain and bar). PPE - Suitable hearing protectors.	Prob. – VL Sev. – M = LOW	Periodic staff meeting reviews and on site auditing for compliance.
d	Vibration	Hand Arm Vibration Syndrome (HAVS) and Vibration White	Saw operator and partic. operators of large & older chainsaws	Prob. – H Sev. – H = HIGH	Purchase lowest vibration saws. Select appropriate equipment, monitor and carefully regulate exposure times against published data.	Prob. – L Sev. – M = MOD.- LOW	Periodic staff meeting reviews and on site auditing for compliance.

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Ref:	Hazard	Risk	Persons at risk	Risk level	Control measures	Residual Risk	Further Action Required?
d	Vibration ...cont'd.	Finger (VWF) Repetitive strain injury (RSI) all accumulative over time	See above	See above	Correct maintenance for A/V systems, chain and bar. PPE - gloves. Use of lorry mounted HIAB to reduce the need to cut large diameter or long lengths of roundwood into manageable pieces	See above	Annual health surveillance (or more frequent as required)
e	Poor handling	Muscular strain/ long-term musculoskeletal injury	Saw operator	Prob. – M Sev. – M = MOD.	Use of ergonomic work systems. Work planning. Fit and well operators.	Prob. – L Sev. – M = MOD.- LOW	Manual Handling training to inc. chainsaw specific use.
f	Contact with moving chain / 'kickback'	Cut injuries / lacerations / severed arteries	Saw operator	Prob. – H Sev. – VH = HIGH	Saw safety features fitted and working. 'Anti-kickback' chains used. Correct bar and chain maintenance. Correct body positioning. PPE – chainsaw gloves (as dictated by site specific risk assessment) / work gloves	Prob. – M-L Sev. – H =MOD.	Periodic staff meeting reviews and on site auditing for compliance.
g	Inhalation of exhaust emissions	Nausea / sickness, carbon monoxide poisoning Eye irritation	Saw operator / work team	Prob. – L Sev. – M = LOW	Use of low emission fuels. Correct saw and exhaust maintenance / engine tuning. Use only in well ventilated areas.	Prob. – VL Sev. – L = V. LOW	As above
H	Contact with hot exhaust	Burns to skin / ignites flammable materials & clothing	Saw operator / work team	Prob. – L Sev. – M = MOD.	All operators trained and competent (NPTC CS30). Correct saw maintenance and servicing. Correct use and positioning. Correct carrying / transport techniques. Allow saw to cool before transport.	Prob. – VL Sev. – M = LOW	As above.

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## 2. Operational

Task	Hazard	Risk	Who might be harmed?	Controls	Monitoring	Risk after controls
Using chainsaw	Cut from saw	Serious cuts	Operators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Only trained and qualified staff to use saws</li> <li>▪ No Lone working</li> <li>▪ Do not allow anyone to enter within 5m absolute minimum when saw is running</li> <li>▪ Comply with relevant FISA guides</li> <li>▪ Scabbard fitted during transport</li> <li>▪ Gloves worn when sharpening</li> <li>▪ Full PPE to be worn</li> <li>▪ Personal First Aid Kit to be worn which must include Large wound dressing</li> <li>▪ Take additional care when working on steep or slippery areas</li> <li>▪ Site specific RA to be noted and first-aid/rescue details to be clear</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Supervisor to undertake regular FISA checks</li> <li>▪ Refresher training</li> <li>▪ Checks of PPE and First Aid Kits</li> <li>▪ Site specific RA to be up to date</li> </ul>	Low
Felling	Hit by falling timber	Worksite	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Public to be prevented from entering worksite by use of signs and barriers. Risk zone is 2 tree lengths when felling. Use banksmen on public rights of way</li> <li>▪ Ensure escape route is clear before working on tree to be felled</li> <li>▪ Hi visibility clothing worn to allow operators to see each other and maintain safe distance</li> <li>▪ Assess weather conditions and only work if safe to do so (avoid high winds or snow, etc)</li> <li>▪ Ensure felling aids are available and to hand before starting work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Supervisor to undertake regular FISA checks</li> <li>▪ Refresher training</li> <li>▪ Checks of PPE and First Aid Kits</li> </ul>	Low

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Helmet to be worn even when not felling due to hung up branches or dislodged deadwood which may fall later</li> <li>▪ Do not leave part felled tree, or if no other option clearly mark off area with barrier tape</li> </ul>		
	Electrocution	Near powerlines	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No felling within 2 tree lengths plus 10m of energised lines</li> </ul>		Low
	Crushed or struck by timber when cutting windblown timber	Windblown trees	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Only appropriately trained staff to work on windblow</li> <li>▪ Ensure correct tools available including winch</li> <li>▪ Take additional time to assess stresses within timber before making any cuts</li> <li>▪ When possible leave windblow until harvesting machinery can remove</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Supervisor to undertake regular FISA checks</li> </ul>	Medium
	Explosion or burns	Refuelling area	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Keep fuel away from sources of ignition such as exhaust pipes of vehicles</li> <li>▪ No smoking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Supervisor to undertake regular FISA checks</li> </ul>	Low
Tractor driving and trailer work	Loss of control	Loss of control Run away Overturn or jack-knife	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ See notes below on page 6</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ensure operators have read all documents and preferably have attended tractor driving course and obtained at least LANTRA qualification</li> </ul>	Medium
Stacking, Loading and moving timber on site	Rolling logs Heavy lifting	Crushing, Impact Strain and back injury		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ High level of alertness and communication between operatives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Supervisor to ensure all briefed and aware of task and risk</li> </ul>	Medium

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**Completed by:** Alan Dyer

**Position:** Chair

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**KEY:**

Risk level:	Risk level prior to implementing control measures (broadly assessed): Prob. = <b>probability / likelihood</b> (VL – very low, L – low, M – moderate, H – high, VH very high) Sev. = <b>severity / extent of harm</b> (VL – very low, L – low, M – moderate, H – high, VH very high) OUTCOMES: V.HIGH (very high), HIGH, MOD. (moderate), LOW, V.LOW (very low)
Control measures:	<i>NB Generic controls, and industry guidance (INDG), detailed at start of generic risk assessment.</i> Specific controls, including brief of PPE requirements, to be implemented to achieve reduced risk to acceptable level.
Residual risk:	Risk level remaining after implementation of control measures (broadly assessed): Prob. = <b>probability / likelihood</b> (VL – very low, L – low, M – moderate, H – high, VH very high) Sev. = <b>severity / extent of harm</b> (VL – very low, L – low, M – moderate, H – high, VH very high) OUTCOMES: V.HIGH (very high), HIGH, MOD. (moderate), LOW, V.LOW (very low)

# Overtuning tractors and other self-propelled vehicles

## What you should know

All vehicles can overturn. Accidents on slopes are not confined to hilly or mountainous regions. They happen just as easily on or near banks, ditches, drains, ramps, uneven or flat ground. Vehicles can also overturn on artificial slopes such as ramps, or when performing tasks such as rolling silage,

When working on slopes the main risks are:

Loss of control

This occurs when wheels lose traction rendering the brakes and steering ineffective. It is easier to lose control of a vehicle on a slope because of the effect of gravity and forward momentum.

Runaways

Loss of control can lead to a runaway where the vehicle starts to move down the slope and the driver is unable to bring it back under control

Jack-knifing

This happens when a trailer or trailed appliance pushes into the tractor and slews the tractor round. Poor ground conditions, heavy loading and poor wheel grip increase the risk

Overtuns

A vehicle may overturn sideways eg when attempting to traverse across a slope diagonally, or trying to turn down a slope as a consequence of a runaway and jack knife. Machines can also overturn forwards or backwards depending on the situation.

## What you need to do

### 1. Plan the job.

Before working on slopes you should assess the risks. Factors to consider include:

Gradient

Different vehicles have different capabilities. Gradients on a slope can vary with some parts steeper than others.

surface

Different surfaces can affect how well a vehicle can deal with a slope eg grass, earth, loose stones

Ground conditions

A slope that is safe during dry conditions may become unsafe if wet, waterlogged, frozen or thawing. Uneven ground with ruts, pot holes and deep tracks can affect stability

Weather

Wet and windy weather may increase the risks

Obstacles

Tree stumps and rocks may be struck, particularly when hidden by vegetation, and cause sideways overturns if struck on the

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uphill side

Task

The proposed task will also affect the risk. When using rear mounted spreaders the load will decrease during spreading and this will reduce rear wheel grip. Tractors with trailed rollers, four-wheel trailers etc will have extra thrust imposed with no additional weight – they may slide away out of control.

## 2. Select a suitable vehicle fitted with a roll over protective structure (ROPS)

A roll bar or safety cab is designed to provide protection for the operator if the vehicle overturns. Where roll over protection is fitted, you should also have a lap belt or seat restraint fitted if a machine will be used in situations where there is a risk of overturning.

check that the roll bar or safety cab is in good condition and correctly fitted. Corrosion and incorrect mounting bolts can cause them to fail in an overturn;

never remove windows or doors from a safety cab;

fit a lap belt where one has not been installed as original equipment;

To reduce the risk of an overturn:

make sure that tractors and machines are properly equipped and maintained, especially brakes, steering and tyres. Consider wide wheel settings for work on slopes;

select a machine suitable for the job. Tractors with four wheel drive are likely to be safer to use on slopes compared to those with two wheel drive.

You may only use a tractor or self-propelled machine without ROPS in low-risk situations such as buildings and orchards or where specific exemptions exist.

## 3. Work safely

Always use safe systems of work when working on slopes. For example:

you should turn uphill when working across a slope, and descend straight down the gentlest gradient;

you cannot always safely descend a slope that you safely drove up;

select an appropriate gear and speed

take into account working with trailers, attachments and loads will change the centre of gravity

To reduce the risk of injury from an overturn:

stay in the cab and do not try to jump clear, as most deaths and serious injuries involve those who are crushed when they jump or are thrown out of a cab during overturning;

don't carry loose items such as draw bar pins or tools inside the cab as they become projectiles and may cause extra injury in an overturn.

wear the lap belt or seat restraint

**Anyone who is required to drive on slopes should receive adequate training so they are aware of the hazards, understand the factors influencing the risks and are able to perform safe driving techniques.**