

RISK ASSESSMENT

LEAF BLOWERS

PHRHA RA 003

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Leaf blowers are used to 'sweep' and collect dry leaves and light, dry, cut vegetation. ○ The operator will control the blower using the controls mounted on the handles. ○ The two types of leaf blower are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Backpack blower – Debris is blown by means of a high speed jet of air delivered through a range of plastic tubes to create different jet patterns. Debris is blown in front of the operator to form a pile for subsequent collection. 2. Hand held blower vacuum - Debris is blown by means of a high speed jet of air delivered through a range of plastic tubes to create different jet patterns. The action of the hand held blower can be reversed by exchanging the blower nozzle for a bag attachment, removing the air inlet guard and fitting a collection tube to collect and compact leaves into a bag. ○ The leaf blowers are fitted with a single pull-start two stroke engine, mounted within the body of the machine.
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WHO IS AT RISK?	The operator Members of the public Animal (pets and wildlife)
AREAS IN WHICH ACTIVITY TAKES PLACE	Open grass areas, paths, woodland and banks within the PHRHA fenced area. Highway verges.
MINIMUM LEVEL OF TRAINING OR QUALIFICATION REQUIRED	Operator training (by competent person) Induction training

EXPLANATION OF RISK RATING: Risk Rating = Probability X Severity			PROBABILITY		
			Unlikely 1	Likely 2	Certain 3
SEVERITY	1	Minor injury or damage	1	2	3
	2	Major injury or damage	2	4	6
	3	Sever injury or serious illness or death. Sever damage	3	6	9

ACTIONS RESULTING FROM RISK RATING:
RATING

1-3	Low Risk: Carry on with activity, ensuring controls are in place. No further controls required.
4-6	MEDIUM Risk: Implement further controls if practical to reduce risk to an acceptable level. Monitor risk level to ensure no increase.
9	High Risk: Stop activity immediately. Implement further controls to reduce risk if possible. Find alternative method.








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EVALUATION

INDENTIFICATION OF HAZARD	HAZARDOUS EVENT	EXISTING CONTROLS TO REDUCE RISK (MINIMUM CONTROLS ALWAYS IN PLACE)	EXISTING RISK RATING			ADDITIONAL CONTROLS TO FURTHER REDUCE RISK TO AN ACCEPTABLE LEVEL	RESIDUAL RISK RATING		
			Probability	Severity	Rating		Probability	Severity	Rating
Flying Debris.	Damage to persons or property Damage to the machine.	Operator Training Guards and deflectors fitted to the machine. Be aware of proximity of others.	2	2	4	Inspection and litter picking prior to cutting. Use mesh protection face mask	1	1	1
Airborne dust.	Inhalation of dust and spores.	Operator Training Correct PPE	1	2	2	Avoid creating large volumes of airborne dust or spores Do not use blowers close to bracken in late summer	1	2	2
Clearing blockages.	Cuts and lacerations from rotating blade/head. Contamination from dog faeces or other foul material.	Operator Training Turn machine off before adjusting	2	2	4	Wear gloves when adjusting or cleaning	1	3	3
Operating near public highway.	Damage to persons or property. Road traffic accident. Depositing debris on highway.	Operator training Operator awareness of surroundings	2	3	6	High-visibility clothing Use grass cutting signage Use traffic cones to demark cutting area Use banksman for concealed areas	1	3	3
Use of fuels and oils.	Fire and explosion Dermatitis (skin disease). Spillage.	Operator Training	2	3	6	Prohibit smoking whilst filling or operating machinery Wear gloves and use funnel Avoid filling a hot blower engine	1	3	3
Starting engines.	Muscle strain / joint damage.	Operator training	2	3	6	Stretching / turning exercises before attempting to pull starting cord. Avoid jerking the cord, use a steady pull.	1	3	3
Hot Engines.	Burns to arms and fingers.	Correct guards fitted Operator Training	2	1	2	None	2	1	2
Use of machine on slopes.	Slipping. Damage to persons or property.	Operator training Use of correct foot ware Knowledge of the area to be blown	2	2	4	Prior inspection of the area to be cut to establish ground conditions. Establish escape route. Use of a substitute machine or method	1	3	3
Noise.	Hearing impairment or deafness of operator.	Modern machinery complies with legislation. Regular maintenance ensures machine in safe working order.	2	2	4	Report increased noise level for potential maintenance. Use ear defenders (10min / 1 hr)	1	2	2
Vibration.	Various symptoms involving exposure to excessive vibration for period of time, including 'White Finger'.	Modern machinery complies with legislation. Regular maintenance ensures machine is in safe working order.	2	2	4	Report increased vibration for potential maintenance. Regular work breaks (10min / 1 hr)	1	2	2

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PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT REQUIRED

Item	Symbol	Required (Ctrl+/-)	Notes
Safety Boots		✓	ISO 20345:2011 S3
Hi-Visibility Clothing		✓	EN471
Eye Protection			N/A
Ear protection		✓	EN 352>31dB SNR
Gloves		✓	EN 388:3
Hard Hat		✓	EN 397
Face Mask		✓	EN 1731 EN 149 FFP2 Dust Mask

RELATED RISK ASSESSMENTS

- Manual Handling
- Working near or adjacent to water
- Working on slopes
- Lone working

CoSHH

- Fuels
- Oils

REFERENCE & GUIDANCE

- Health & Safety at Works Act 1974
- Management of Health & Safety at Work Regulations 1992
- The Provision and use of Work Equipment Regulations 1992
- Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992
- The Traffic Signs Manual – Chapter 8
- New Street & Road Works Act (Guide) Red Book
- Safe Operating Procedures (Operators Manual)
- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 1994
- Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1993
- Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992
- Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations
- Control of Vibration at Work Regulations 2005
- Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998

- The information contained within this Risk Assessment should be taken as the minimum requirement and is not to be considered exhaustive.

Risk Assessment Completed By: Eoin O'Keefe

Risk Assessment Authorised By:

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