

**CARE**  
**in**  
**East Grinstead and Lingfield**  
**RISK ASSESSMENT**

**ITEM OF PLANT OR TOOL**

**ECHO, PETROL ENGINE POWERED HEDGE CUTTER**

**DESCRIPTION OF RISK/HAZARD**

Operation of the Tool at unspecified work places

**RISKS**



1. Physical injury to operator caused by:
  - 1.1 Moving the Tool into or out of a transporting vehicle – muscle strain
  - 1.2 Filling engine tank with petrol – fire; inhalation of fumes
  - 1.3 Inappropriate handling of Tool during working – muscle strain, back strain
  - 1.4 Potential injury from the cutter blades – amputation of fingers; severe cuts to body
  - 1.5 Falling cuttings from the work – damage to the eyes
  - 1.6 Noise from engine – damage to the ears
2. Physical injury to persons nearby to the work area caused by:
  - 2.1 Falling cuttings from the work – damage to eyes
  - 2.2 Noise from the engine – damage to ears

**PROTECTIVE & PREVENTITVE MEASURES TO BE TAKEN**

1. The Tool is to be maintained both mechanically and electrically in good working order. An inspection is to be carried out annually and a record is to be maintained by the Section Manager in charge of the Tool.
2. The Tool is to be transported only by persons who are physically strong enough to carry it and in such a manner that they do not impose strains on their bodies. The weight of the Tool is designed such that a normally fit adult should be able to carry and work it.
3. The Tool is to be prepared for work and operated only by competent persons who have received instruction in its operation.
4. The Tool is powered by a 2-stroke petrol engine. Fuel is to be made available in cans of no larger capacity than 10 litres. The fuel is a mixture of unleaded petrol and 2-stroke oil mixed in ratio 40:1. Due to the very narrow opening of the tank on the Tool, the use of a funnel is recommended when re-filling, to prevent spillages. Extinguish all naked lights before any re-filling process commences and only perform this work in an open space, away from buildings and other persons.
5. When operating the Tool, care must be exercised to ensure the Operators do not attempt to cut material too far from the body, thus over-reaching and causing themselves physical injury (particularly back strain).
6. The design of the Tool is such that both hands should be employed to operate it by holding the two handles. By operating in this manner, it will not be possible to bring the fingers anywhere near the blades. Do not attempt to hold the Tool by one hand to reach uncut material.
7. Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) to be used should at least include ear defenders and goggles and stout shoes should be worn. Gloves should also be used if the material being cut is thorny/sharp.
8. Before starting to use the Tool, ensure that all other people, who are in the vicinity of the work area, are made aware of the work that is about to begin and warned to keep clear.
9. Always ensure that the engine is stopped before attempting to touch any part of the cutter blades. This includes clearing any jammed or stuck material.
10. The Tool is to be maintained in a clean condition, being returned to the designated storage location at the end of each job. Any malfunctions or other problems that have been encountered by the most recent Operator shall be reported to the Section Manager.

The individual given the work task is to have received training in operation of the Tool.

**Risk Rating for Echo Hedge Cutter (the Tool)**

<u>Consequence</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Assessed</u>	<u>Likelihood</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Assessed</u>
Major	5		Very High	5	
High	4		High	4	
Medium	3		Medium	3	
Low	2		Low	2	
Minor	1		Improbable	1	

<b><u>RISK RATING</u></b>
<b>4</b>

**Definitions and explanations**

<b>Risk</b>	Possibility of danger, loss, injury or other adverse consequence
<b>Hazard</b>	Something with potential to cause harm
<b>Consequence</b>	Degree of harm that may be caused
<b>Likelihood</b>	Indicates the probability of an event occurring
<b>Risk Rating</b>	Consequence x Likelihood = The severity of risk

**Definition**      **Points**      **Description**

**Consequence**

Major	5	Causing death to one or more people, or life threatening disease e.g. cancer, silicosis
High	4	Causing permanent disability      e.g. loss of limb, chronic back pain, blindness
Medium	3	Causing temporary disability      e.g. fracture, unconsciousness
Low	2	Causing significant injuries      e.g. sprains, bruises, lacerations
Minor	1	Causing minor injuries      e.g. cuts, scratches

**Likelihood**

Very High	5	It is almost certain that an accident or ill-health will result if the situation continues
High	4	It is very likely that the effects of humans or other factors will cause an accident or ill health
Medium	3	It is foreseeable that circumstances will combine to result in an accident
Low	2	It is unlikely that circumstances will combine to result in an incident
Improbable	1	It is most unlikely that an accident will occur. It would require freak conditions to occur, against which it is not reasonable to protect. This should be the normal state of the workplace.

**Risk Rating** – the resulting Risk Rating is interpreted as follows:

16 – 25	High	Immediate and permanent action must be taken to control the risk. If not practicable to control the risk immediately, then other controls must be put in place in the meantime.
8 - 15	Medium	A careful explanation must be undertaken of the factors involved to determine what actions are reasonably practicable to reduce the risk rating.
2 – 7	Low	Not requiring a great deal of attention. However, if a simple and inexpensive solution exists which will reduce the risk further, it should be implemented.
1		No perceived risk