

### What are the hazards and how might they harm?



Cuts, lacerations and amputation from sharp blades, incorrect use of equipment



Trip injuries from obstructions, falls on uneven ground and slopes



Impact injuries or eye injuries from falling objects



Back or muscle strain from manual handling



Bacterial or viral infections from contact with contaminated material

### What PPE should the individual wear?



### What other precautions should be taken?



Use barriers to restrict access to work areas

## Hedge cutting using prune saws and long-handled pruners (shears or secateurs)

### Safety Task Card STCBG 39

#### Safe System of Work

1. As far as possible, the activity should be carried out when the fewest people are likely to be in the area and pedestrian traffic is minimal.
2. Visually inspect the equipment before use to ensure that all fixtures are secure, the guarding is intact and not cracked or otherwise damaged, and that the cutting edges are fit for purpose.
3. You must reinforced toe-capped safety boots, safety goggles, protective gloves and a high viz vest or jacket.
4. Test all safety features to ensure that they are functioning as designed
5. Ensure that any appropriate safety signage on the equipment is visible.
6. Erect warning signage and barriers on both sides of the hedge if working in a public access areas.
7. Before starting carry out visual inspection of the work area checking for hypodermic needles, nitrous oxide cylinders, trip hazards and wasp and bee nests, and dog, fox and cat faeces and for overhead electric cables. Report any hazards identified to your manager.
8. Always hold the hedge cutter with both hands and maintain visual contact with the end of the equipment when cutting or sawing.
9. Keep hands away from the cutting edges at all times.
10. Maintain a safe working distance between yourself and other people.
11. Do not overreach and ensure you stay balanced at all times.
12. Use good manual handling practices.
13. Do not attempt to cut any branches that are too thick for the equipment.
14. Keep the area tidy to prevent obstructions which can pose a trip hazard.
15. Do not leave equipment unattended.
16. Thoroughly wash your hands before eating, drinking, smoking or vaping.

**If you have any concerns, stop and speak with your line manager before proceeding**

## Hedge cutting using prune saws and long-handled pruners continued

### Safety Task Card **STCBG 39**

List any additional hazards or risks you have identified, and control measures required to manage these.