

What are the hazards and how might they harm?



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



Trip injuries from obstructions and falls on uneven ground



Impact injuries or eye injuries from flying debris



Back or muscle strain from manual handling



HAVS from overuse of equipment



Hearing loss or physical damage to ears from exposure to noise



Explosion or fire as a result of ignition of petrol



Impact injuries as a result of entanglement

What PPE should the individual wear?



What other precautions should be taken?



You must be trained and 18 years or older to use this equipment

Woodchippers

Safety Task Card STCBG 38

Safe System of Work

1. You must be trained on how to use the specific woodchipper being used and follow manufacturers instructions.
2. Visually checks the equipment before each used, ensuring any protective devices are working correctly and guards are secure and undamaged; report any defects to your manager and do not use equipment.
3. The woodchipper must be sited on level, stable and firm ground, with sufficient level space for safe operation.
4. Use warning signs and/or barrier to segregate the work area and prevent unauthorised access.
5. Do not wear loose clothing and ensure lanyards are contained, long hair tied back, and jewellery removed before operating the machine.
6. You must wear non-snag protective clothing, a safety helmet, safety goggles or a visor, hearing protection, protective gloves with long close-fitting cuffs that can be tucked into sleeves, and reinforced toe-capped boots with ankle support and good grip.
7. Make sure that the chute is positioned safely and is free of rocks and any other foreign objects prior to switching on.
8. Be aware of the location of the emergency stop button and ensure this is operating.
9. Check that the wood before inserting it and remove any materials that may cause entanglement or other foreign bodies, such as stones or pieces metal.
10. Use good manual handling practices when loading material into the chute and when relocating equipment
11. Do not overload the machine and always use the feed control bars when filling with wood.
12. Always use the provided push-stick for short items and for the last load.
13. Keep the area around the woodchipper clear and organised to prevent obstructions.

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

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

Woodchippers continued

Safety Task Card STCBG 38

Safe System of Work

14. Always keep a safe distance from and to the side of the machine feeder and be aware of debris being ejected.
15. Never attempt to clear the machine of any obstructions whilst still switched on. Always turn equipment off and remove the start key before attempting to remove an obstruction.
16. Always remove the engine start key when the machines is left unattended.
17. Tasks must be carried out in suitable weather conditions, and you must react to changing weather conditions.
18. Lone working is not permitted, and a buddy system must be in place.
19. If working in a remote area you must be fully trained in how to raise the alarm and must be first aid trained.
20. Ensure a first aid kit, including a large wound dressing, is available at the point of work.

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