

WOODFUEL PROJECT -Risk Assessment - Chainsaw Use

This should be read in conjunction with the standard risk assessment of the site

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing?	Do you need to do anything else to manage this risk?	Action by whom?	Control	Site Specifics
Slips, trips and falls	Volunteers - major injuries possible to chainsaw user	... site induction talk..	Group Leader should manage the work site.	Group Leader	On site safe moving talk as part of tool talk; ongoing assessment. Chainsaw users should use chain brake when moving about site.	Site is steep, slips likely when wet, observe safe working practice and keep site tidy
Chainsaw kick- back	Volunteers - major injuries possible to chainsaw user	... site induction talk..	Group Leader should manage the work site.	Group Leader	Only competent users allowed to operate chainsaws	Working in hedges increases the risk of kickback. Other hazards that could cause similar problems are lengths of fencing wire and stones.
Manual Handling injuries	Volunteers - back injuries	... site induction talk..	Group Leader should manage the work site.	Group Leader	On site; individuals to make sure correct posture in tool use and lifting. Assess object before lifting. Use lifting aids.	
Injury to the public	Members of the public - injured by falling timber	Site induction talk.	Group Leader should manage the work site. There should be a warning sign at either end of the worksite. One volunteer to act as 'banksman' to safeguard the public.	Group Leader	No tools or brash or wood stacked on footway for general public. Keep vigilance for public in relation to tool use.	A public footpath crosses the worksite.
Fire for Burning Brash - ignition of chainsaw fuel	Volunteers and Public - burns		Group Leader should ensure that chainsaw operators only handle fuel at least m from the fire site.	Group Leader	Make sure fire is 10m from fire site	