

Green Mantle (Ecosophy) Ltd Health & Safety

Four golden rules to keep in mind when working for Green Mantle:

- 1. Think 'Safety'!**
Be cautious of potential danger and risk. If you're unsure, don't do it - ask for guidance
- 2. Think 'Precautionary Principle'!**
Don't leave a tool at home if there's any chance that you 'may' need it
- 3. Think 'Ergonomics'!**
Consider the 'efficiency' of your working practices, both as an individual and as part of the team
- 4. Think 'Cradle to Grave'!**
Work as if "you" will be undertaking the next stage of the operation; don't create 'unnecessary' work. For example:
 - Prevent the need to untangle felled trees
 - Surmise direction of drag before felling
 - Reduce the need to drag cut material over large distances
 - Propose improvements and alternatives

Health & Safety - General

Various Health Considerations

Minimise inhalation of bracken spores and smoke (masks supplied)

Be aware of recommended manual handling techniques

Report poor ear defenders to HQ without delay for replacement

Be aware of the detrimental affect of the sun's UV rays on eyes and skin; use sunglasses and high factor sun cream

Use gloves and long sleeves during Ragwort pulling to avoid alkaloid absorption

Tetanus

All employees are responsible for keeping their Tetanus inoculation up to date (currently booster required after exposure to significant risk).

First Aid Certification

Employees with First Aid Certificates are responsible for keeping them up to

date (currently every 3 years); grants may be available for obtaining or updating certificates.

Ticks

Please check for ticks periodically. They may be removed by smothering in Vaseline and gently twisting and pulling with tweezers whilst gripping them close to the head, without squeezing the body. Dig out any remaining mouth parts and disinfect. Monitor area for a growing raised ring and seek medical assistance immediately if this occurs to prevent the neurological problems associated with Lyme's Disease.

Weil's Disease

Beware of swallowing water where rats may be present. Whilst most infected persons recover completely with treatment, if untreated, the patient may not survive the organ damage caused by the bacteria. Therefore, if you have swallowed water and feel any symptoms resembling a cold or influenza, e.g. fever, chills, muscular aches and pains, loss of appetite or nausea when lying down, report to your doctor immediately, requesting that he/she assesses you for Weil's Disease.

For further information see the 'Weil's Disease Information Centre' Web Site:
<http://www.caving.org.uk/wdic/home.html>

Health & Safety - Before Commencing Work

If a designated Team Leader is not available, liaise with HQ to determine the most appropriate 'Acting Team Leader' at the start of the day

Team leader to ensure that all necessary tools and equipment are taken to site (see 'Tools & Equipment Checklists' - 12.0)

All staff to pay particular attention to Risk Assessment before commencing work

Team Leader to be responsible for minimising risk, e.g. using warning signs and tape where necessary

Team Leader to ensure that first aid kit, mobile phone, grid reference list and safety whistles are on site before commencing work

Team Leader is responsible for the safe and efficient execution of any Green Mantle work

Establishing a Refuelling Site

Where possible select refuelling site in the shade and away from water

5.3 middle item, should read "Never smoke, eat or drink in vehicle with fuel on board or within 10m of a refuelling site

Do not operate any chain-saw or brushcutter within 10m of the refuelling point

Health & Safety - During Work

Always inform colleagues where you will be working and agree a meeting up time, e.g. tea/lunch breaks

Compulsory work breaks: 10.30-10.50, 12.30-13.00 & 15.00-15.20

Report all accidents immediately to Team Leader and check that they are entered correctly in the Green Mantle accident record book

Team Leader to notify HQ if items in first aid kit need topping up/replacing

Any health & safety issues or any other concerns to be reported immediately to Team Leader or HQ

Always make Team Leader aware of potential dangers as they arise, including unsafe working practices by other employees; Team Leader to take appropriate action immediately

Always keep whistle on your person and use for emergency purposes only

Always maintain tools to achieve a safe and sharp condition

Consideration to be given to non-smokers in works vehicles

Record ALL accidents on tear-off record forms and submit to HQ

Chain-sawing

Ensure that you and your colleagues have your emergency whistles to hand

Ensure that you are aware of the positions of colleagues, e.g. 2 tree lengths when felling!

Always wear helmet with visor down

Always wear chain-saw protective gloves except when tree climbing (licensed operators only)

Always wear chain-saw protective trousers

Always wear chain-saw protective boots

Do not smoke

All operators must familiarise themselves with the safety section of the Stihl MS260CAT owner's manual (p4-20), before commencing work

Always stop chain-sawing if you consider illness / fatigue to be an issue with safety

Re-fuelling Chain-saw

Always top up chain-saw oil before petrol

Always use Stihl self-sealing spout

Always carefully depress collar with cap in place to relieve pressure and wipe self-sealing spout before refuelling; replace cap after use

Always check that fuel in machine tank is coloured

Brushcutting/Clearsawing

Always wear:

Safety glasses

Helmet with visor down

Gloves

Steel toe-capped boots

Avoid risk of strain and reduce fatigue by correct adjustment of brush-cutter harness

All operators must familiarise themselves with the safety section of the Stihl FS400 brushcutter owner's manual (p4-14) and the operations section of the Stihl Modern Forest & Landscape Care booklet (p14-33), before commencing work

Do not operate closer than 15m from the nearest person

Re-fuelling Brushcutter

Always use Stihl self-sealing spout

Where using a self-sealing spout, always carefully depress collar with cap in place to relieve pressure and wipe spout before refuelling; replace cap after use

Always check that fuel in machine tank is coloured

Stump Treating

Strict adherence to herbicide recording procedures first item on 8.1 and 9.1

Always keep spare chemicals in the locked box

Always decontaminate before eating/drinking, changing operations, handling uncontaminated equipment and at end of the day

Always wear face-shield and neoprene-type gloves

Always keep soap and water bottles out of chemical bucket and storage box

Operator never to touch soap container or water containers with gloved hands

Toilet Duck containers to be used for dispensing herbicide on steep sites

Use marked caps to note contents of already-mixed herbicide containers

Always wash soap dish if it gets touched accidentally

Wash out herbicide containers a minimum of 3 times with surfactant and return to HQ for safe disposal

Operator is to touch only black handle on bucket; assistant is to only touch metal handle or rim of the bucket. Operator is to be responsible for immediately washing with soap any part of bucket which should not have been touched

Operator to only touch herbicide equipment (to avoid punctures, never touch scrub)

Always decant chemicals over bucket

Spraying

Strict adherence to herbicide recording procedures first item on 8.1 and 9.1

Only spray if wind speed is between 3 - 6 mph unless otherwise authorised by HQ

Always wear personal protective equipment as detailed on label (use respirator and goggles when bracken spraying)

Always keep spare chemicals in the locked box

Use marked caps to note contents of already-mixed herbicide containers

Always decontaminate before food/drink, changing operations, handling uncontaminated equipment and at end of day

Always keep soap and water bottles out of chemical bucket and storage box

Use cartridge breathing apparatus in high bracken and Japanese Knotweed

Operator only to touch herbicide equipment (to avoid punctures, never touch scrub). Operator never to touch soap container or water bottles

Operator is to touch only black handle on bucket; assistant is to touch only metal handle or rim of bucket

Operator is to be responsible for immediately washing with soap any part of bucket which should not have been touched

Always discard water bottles if they get touched accidentally, even if momentarily

Always wash soap dish if it gets touched accidentally

Wash out herbicide containers a minimum of 3 times with surfactant and return to HQ for safe disposal

Always decant chemicals over bucket

Team Leader to ensure that gloves are washed in warm water with soap, inverted and rinsed. Leave inside out as indication that gloves are clean.

Fencing

Always use a helmet with the drivall

Always wear gloves when handling treated timber and when unrolling wire

Use ungloved hand for tools requiring grip

Burning

Be sure Team Leader or HQ has notified fire brigade before lighting fires

When choosing the site, consider wind direction/speed, dryness of material and nearness of public/livestock

Always ensure fire site is at least 20m from and downwind of chemical or petrol reserves

Before lighting fire, ensure that the area directly surrounding the site is well raked (minimum 2m from site in all directions) to prevent the fire site spreading, particularly in the summer

Ensure fire beater / water is at hand, particularly in the summer

Maximum vigilance on leaving safe fire sites

Team leader to be responsible for all fires being left in a safe condition

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