

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 (use 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. Ticks 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 websites such as:

- <http://www.hpa.org.uk/Topics/InfectiousDiseases/InfectionsAZ/Leptospirosis/GeneralInformation/lepto005GeneralInformation/>
- <http://www.rospa.com/leisuresafety/adviceandinformation/watersafety/weils-disease.aspx>
- <http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Leptospirosis/Pages/Introduction.aspx>

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 your 'Tools & Equipment Checklists')
- 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. 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

- No smoking 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 MS241 / MS261 owner's manual 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 FS410 brushcutter owner's manual 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
- 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 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 un-gloved 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

© 2004-2014 Green Mantle (Ecosophy) Ltd