

GENERIC RISK ASSESSMENT FOR COMMERCIAL ARBORICULTURE

1:0 EMERGENCY CONTINGENCIES

Completed by: Tony Ranson
Position: Business Development
Date: 01 Sept 2018

Ref:	Hazard	Risk	Persons involved	Industry best practice/guidance	Date Issued	Control measures	Adequate ? Y/N	Action Required	By (date)	Completed (date)
1.1	Staff or other personnel on site suffer injury, including infection with communicable disease, e.g. HIV, Hepatitis B and TB See also Section 2: Site considerations	Fatality, ill health, worsening of injury, worsening of condition, complications. Viral infection, psychological trauma	Work team/ client/general public	AFAG Safety Guide 401,402, 802: "A Guide to Good Climbing Practice", "Aerial Rescue Guidance Notes": HSE INDG317 "Chainsaws at work":	Feb 2017	Appropriate First Aid Kit on site. Climbers carry personal First Aid Kit. All staff trained and certificated in First Aid. At least one of ground staff trained and certificated in Aerial Rescue. All staff know site location and means of contacting emergency services. Be aware. Items of concern should be carefully handled with protective gloves and disposed of correctly	Yes	None	n/a	March 2019
1.2	Fire/explosion	Burns/blast injuries	Work team/ client/general public	AFAG Safety Guide 301, 302, 401, 802: HSE HSG47 "Avoiding danger from underground services"	Feb 2017	As above and fire extinguishers fitted in works vehicles: staff trained in their use	No	Fit fire extinguishers to vehicle.	Dec 2019	March 2019
1.3	Contact with energised power lines See also 2.2 Power lines – over and underground	Serious injury/fatality. Third party electrocution.	Work team/ client/general public	AFAG Safety Guide 302, 401, 402, 802, 804: HSE HSG47 "Avoiding danger from underground services"	Feb 2017	As above, and all staff trained. Emergency procedures known. Accurate assessment of situation. Means of contacting Regional Electricity Company is known to all staff	Yes	n/a	n/a	March 2019

Monitor and review at 6 monthly intervals, or when there are changes in Staff, Equipment, or Work Activity

GENERIC RISK ASSESSMENT FOR COMMERCIAL ARBORICULTURE

1:0 EMERGENCY CONTINGENCIES (continued)

Ref:	Hazard	Risk	Persons involved	Industry best practice/guidance	Date Issued	Control measures	Adequate ? Y/N	Action Required	By (date)	Completed (date)
1.4	Emergency call-out work: night-time work. Poor weather conditions.	Cut/crush/ impact injury due to poor visibility/ unstable trees or structures/ other people/ vehicles on site.	Work team/ client/general public	AFAG Safety Guide 301, 302, 303, 304, 306, 307, 308, 310, 501, 802, 804: HSE INDG317 “Chainsaws at work”, HSE HSG47 “Avoiding danger from underground services”: NPTC CS 34, 35:	Feb 2017	All operators trained and certificated. Co-ordination with emergency services, local authorities, utility company etc. Portable lighting on site. Unauthorised personnel excluded from work area: signs, barriers, etc. PPE.	Yes	None, presently not carrying out emergency call out work	n/a	March 2019

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GENERIC RISK ASSESSMENT FOR COMMERCIAL ARBORICULTURE

2:0 SITE CONSIDERATIONS

2.1 WORK SITE – Common Factors

Ref:	Hazard	Risk	Persons involved	Industry best practice/guidance	Date Issued	Control measures	Adequate ? Y/N	Action Required	By (date)	Completed (date)
a	Works vehicles	Personal injury from contact with sharp edges (doors, lockers, tailgates, etc.). Jump/fall from load bed, trailer, cab, etc. Crush injuries from tipper bed, trailer, unexpected movement, etc.	Work team/client/general public	AFAG Safety Guide 403, 501, 502, 503, 603, 701, 702: routine preventative maintenance in accordance with internal procedures and manufacturers' recommendations	Feb 2017	All operators trained. Vehicle manufacturers instruction manual available. All guards and warnings in place. Regular vehicle maintenance and servicing. Loading and securing of load in accordance with Department for Transport guidelines. Appropriate PPE, such as safety helmet, safety boots and suitable gloves.	Yes	None	n/a	March 2019

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GENERIC RISK ASSESSMENT FOR COMMERCIAL ARBORICULTURE

2:0 SITE CONSIDERATIONS

2.1 WORK SITE – Common Factors – (continued)

Ref:	Hazard	Risk	Persons involved	Industry best practice/guidance	Date Issued	Control measures	Adequate ? Y/N	Action Required	By (date)	Completed (date)
b	Theft of work equipment from works vehicles. Theft of works vehicles, including trailed loads.	Serious injury/fatality arising from untrained use/abuse/ mis-use of stolen work equipment. Severe injury from contact with stolen vehicle moving at speed. Jump/fall from load bed, trailer, cab, etc. Crush injuries from tipper bed, trailer, unexpected movement, etc.	User/abuser/ mis-user/ general public/ work team/ client/ emergency services personnel	Internal procedures designed to ensure security of work equipment on site	Feb 2017	Awareness training for all operators. Comply with all in-company security instructions. Do not leave machinery running when unattended; do not leave ignition keys in unattended vehicles or idle plant such as brushwood chippers or stump grinders. Timing of operations in sensitive areas (see also 2.6 Working in sensitive/ emotionally charged locality). Regular vehicle servicing and maintenance. All guards and warnings in place. Loading and securing of load in accordance with Department for Transport guidelines.	Yes	None	n/a	March 2019
c	Use of hand tools	Cuts, muscular strain	Work team	AFAG Safety Guide 201, 302, 304, 307, 401	Feb 2017	Edged tools guarded. Safe stance/positioning. Safe working distance from colleagues. PPE.	Yes	None	n/a	March 2019

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GENERIC RISK ASSESSMENT FOR COMMERCIAL ARBORICULTURE

2:0 SITE CONSIDERATIONS

2.1 WORK SITE – Common Factors – (continued)

Ref:	Hazard	Risk	Persons involved	Industry best practice/guidance	Date Issued	Control measures	Adequate ? Y/N	Action Required	By (date)	Completed (date)
d	Access equipment:: Ladders, steps and temporary platforms See also 5.7 Mobile elevated work platform (MEWP)	Falling, injury from falling object, concussion, crushing	Work team/ client/general public	AFAG Safety Guide 401, "A Guide to Good Climbing Practice";	Feb 2017	All staff fully trained and competent.. Ensure stability, especially on soft or uneven ground. Ladders should be secured at the top if used as a working platform, and operator independently secured. Follow manufacturer's safety instructions. Regular inspection of all access equipment.	Yes	None	n/a	March 2019
e	Powered tools and machinery	Cut injuries, crushing, electrocution, infection from hydraulic oil	Work team/ client/general public	Operator's certificates; AFAG Safety Guides 105, 203	Feb 2017	All staff fully trained, with full access to machinery manuals and records. Manufacturers guidelines to be followed, as is guidance published by AFAG, HSE etc.	Yes	None	n/a	March 2019
f	Manual handling	Muscular strain/ back injury, crush injuries	Work team	HSE INDG317 "Chainsaws at work": AFAG Safety Guide 301, 302, 303, 304.	Feb 2017	Avoid manual lifting where practicable: use mechanical aids. Move smaller pieces. Use hand aid tools. Use ergonomic work systems, work planning. PPE.	Yes	None	n/a	March 2019

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GENERIC RISK ASSESSMENT FOR COMMERCIAL ARBORICULTURE

2:0 SITE CONSIDERATIONS

2.1 WORK SITE – Common Factors – (continued)

Ref:	Hazard	Risk	Persons involved	Industry best practice/guidance	Date Issued	Control measures	Adequate ? Y/N	Action Required	By (date)	Completed (date)
g	Weather: Extremes of temperature; wet, windy, electrical storm	Poor visibility, loss of grip/ slipping, physiological stress, hypothermia, electrocution	Work team	AFAG Safety Guide 302, 401, 802: "A Guide to Good Climbing Practice"	Feb 2017	Change task. Stop work. PPE. Thermal blanket available.	Yes	None	n/a	March 2019
h	Terrain	Slipping/ tripping	Work team/ client/general public	AFAG Safety Guide 302, 307, 401, 802.	Feb 2017	Prepare site. Change task. Change access. Appropriate footwear for staff / tyres for vehicles	Yes	None	n/a	March 2019
i	Staff or other personnel on site suffer injury from communicable disease, e.g. HIV, Hepatitis B, TB See also Section 1: Emergency contingencies	Fatality, ill health, worsening of condition, complications. Viral infection, psychological trauma	Work team/ client/general public	Health monitoring and surveillance	Feb 2017	Appropriate First Aid Kit on site. All staff trained and certificated in First Aid. Site location and means of contacting emergency services is known to all staff. Treat all blood or body fluid as infected and take universal precautions i.e. use of gloves, wash hands thoroughly, bag items carefully and seal bag. Be aware. Items of concern should be carefully handled with latex gloves and disposed of correctly.	No	Arb related first aid training.	Dec 2019	March 2019

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GENERIC RISK ASSESSMENT FOR COMMERCIAL ARBORICULTURE

2:0 SITE CONSIDERATIONS

2.1 WORK SITE – Common Factors – (continued)

Ref:	Hazard	Risk	Persons involved	Industry best practice/guidance	Date Issued	Control measures	Adequate ? Y/N	Action Required	By (date)	Completed (date)
j	Stings or bites	Transmitted infections (bacterial or viral)/ allergic reactions	Work team/ client/ general public	Health monitoring and surveillance	Feb 2017	Identify any team member with specific allergy. Identify the animal / insect / vegetation with the potential to cause harm and monitor position, activity and movement and treat with caution. Where the risk of injury is real then use the appropriate PPE. First Aid training. Guidance published by AAIS, AA, HSE etc. Programme work for most appropriate time/season.	No	Arb related first aid training.	Dec 2019	March 2019

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2:0 SITE CONSIDERATIONS

2.1 WORK SITE – Common Factors – (continued)

Ref:	Hazard	Risk	Persons involved	Industry best practice/guidance	Date Issued	Control measures	Adequate ? Y/N	Action Required	By (date)	Completed (date)
k	Needle stick injuries	Viral infection, psychological trauma	Work team/ client/ general public	Health monitoring and surveillance	Feb 2017	Identify sites with the potential to harbour discarded hypodermic syringes and treat with caution. Where the risk of injury is real then use “sharps” containers for the acceptable disposal of syringes. Under no circumstances shall syringes be re-sheathed because of risk of needle stick injury. Appropriate PPE. Appropriate First Aid and post exposure treatment, counselling. Guidance published by AAIS, Arboricultural Association, HSE etc.	Yes	None	n/a	March 2019

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2:0 SITE CONSIDERATIONS

2.1 WORK SITE – Common Factors – (continued)

Ref:	Hazard	Risk	Persons involved	Industry best practice/guidance	Date Issued	Control measures	Adequate ? Y/N	Action Required	By (date)	Completed (date)
l	Deer tick bites	Lyme disease, infection from the bacteria carried by deer ticks, irritation of areas affected by ticks	Work team/ client/ general public: most likely from May to October	Reporting of any ill health. Operatives at risk should maintain regular health checks. "Tick bites and Lyme disease", Kingston and Richmond & Twickenham PCT	Feb 2017	Where deer are believed to be present wear long trousers tucked into socks, long sleeves buttoned at wrist and tucked in at waist during May – October	No	Awareness info	Dec 2018	March 2019
m	Salmonella	Fatality, ill health	Work team/ client/ general public	Reporting of any ill health. Operatives at risk should maintain regular health checks	Feb 2017	Be aware, wear gloves. Wash hands thoroughly before eating, smoking etc	Yes	None	n/a	March 2019
n	Tetanus	Fatality, ill health	Work team/ client/ general public	Regular booster injections. Reporting of any ill health. Operatives at risk should maintain regular health checks	Feb 2017	Keep anti-tetanus injections up to date.	Yes	None	n/a	March 2019
o	Dog and cat faeces: Toxicara	Toxocariasis: Loss of sight, ill health	Work team/ client/ general public	Health monitoring and surveillance	Feb 2017	Be aware, wear gloves. Wash hands thoroughly before eating, smoking etc	Yes	None	n/a	March 2019

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2:0 SITE CONSIDERATIONS

2.1 WORK SITE – Common Factors – (continued)

Ref:	Hazard	Risk	Persons involved	Industry best practice/guidance	Date Issued	Control measures	Adequate ? Y/N	Action Required	By (date)	Completed (date)
p	Weils Disease (Leptospirosis) – transmitted to humans by contact with urine from infected rats	Fatality, ill-health	Anyone who is exposed to rats, rat or cattle urine: those in contact with canal and river water are also at risk	Reporting of any ill health. Operatives at risk should maintain regular health checks. HSE INDG84 Leptospirosis – are you at risk?	Feb 2017	Wear protective clothing. Cover all cuts and broken skin with waterproof plasters before and during work. Wash hands after handling contaminated clothing or other materials and always before eating, drinking or smoking. See local Public Health Laboratory Service or hospital consultant microbiologist for advice and serological testing	Yes	None	n/a	March 2019

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Ref:	Hazard	Risk	Persons involved	Industry best practice/guidance	Date Issued	Control measures	Adequate ? Y/N	Action Required	By (date)	Completed (date)
2.2	Power lines – over and underground	Electrocution, contact with live lines	Work team/ client/general public	AFAG Safety Guide 401, 804; HSE HSG47 “Avoiding danger from underground services”. NPTC suite of certificates of competence in Utility Arboriculture (if working within vicinity zones)	Feb 2017	All staff trained. Observe safe working distances: No work within 15 m of any overhead power line without contacting Regional Electricity Company supplier (REC). If working within vicinity zone, follow instructions and procedures of REC. Shut down power.	Yes	None	n/a	March 2019
2.3	Other utility wayleaves (e.g: Telephone lines, gas mains, water or sewage pipes)	Rupturing gas/ water/ telecomm supplies: explosions, flooding loss of communication ability, loss of data	Work team/ client/general public	AFAG Safety Guide 401: HSE HSG47 “Avoiding danger from underground services”:	Feb 2017	Establish existence / position of wayleaves: Utilities’ site plans; CAT scanner used by trained operator. Avoid excavation or excavate only using hand tools; Avoid significant ground impact from falling timber; Avoid contact with overhead telecomm lines.	Yes	None	n/a	March 2019

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Ref:	Hazard	Risk	Persons involved	Industry best practice/guidance	Date Issued	Control measures	Adequate ? Y/N	Action Required	By (date)	Completed (date)
2.4	Buildings or other obstructions	Trees/parts of trees in contact with building or obstruction	Work team/client/general public	AFAG Safety Guide 302, 307, 310, 401: NPTC Certificates of Competence: CS31, 32, 33, 41, 44	Feb 2017	Work planning. All staff trained and certificated in felling and dismantling operations. Buildings evacuated as necessary.	Yes	None	n/a	March 2019
2.5	Working near roads/ footpaths/ public areas	Trees/parts of trees hitting passing traffic/ pedestrians. Workers struck by passing traffic	Work team/client/general public	AFAG Safety Guide 401: Department for Transport Approved Code of Practice "Safety at street works and road works" to support NRSWA.	Feb 2017	All staff trained to appropriate level. AT least one certificated operator on site on public roads. Adequate staff on site to maintain traffic control. Use of "Hi-viz" clothing/ PPE. Public excluded from work area: signs, barriers, tape.	Yes	None	n/a	March 2019
2.6	Working in sensitive/ emotionally charged locality	Offending or alienating the general public. Work team becoming the victim of verbal or physical abuse	Work team/client/general public/local special interest group/anti-social element of local community	In-company code of practice / instruction.	Feb 2017	Use of hand tools where possible for pruning works; clear work site: Take brush off-site without chipping to reduce the risk that noise may cause nuisance and/ or signal the presence of the work team. Refer situation to supervisor/ team leader/manager/ client. Seek to calm the tensions. Guide and educate the general public.	Yes	None	n/a	March 2019

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Ref:	Hazard	Risk	Persons involved	Industry best practice/guidance	Date Issued	Control measures	Adequate ? Y/N	Action Required	By (date)	Completed (date)
3.1	Mineral oil/ herbicides/ pesticides in or near watercourses. Tree work adjacesnt to watercourses	Pollution threat to aquatic life forms, be they plant or animal Sawdust, chippings, brushwood, timber causing blockage to watercourse	Work team, client, general public	BS 3998:1989 "Recommendations for Tree Work", BS 5837: 1991 "Guide for trees in relation to construction". Forestry Commission: "Forests and water guidelines" Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 EC Directive 2000/60/EC Water Framework Directive	Feb 2017	All staff to receive training. Refuelling of vehicles, plant and equipment to be carried out away from watercourses. No mixing and decanting of pesticides and herbicides or other chemicals in the vicinity of a watercourse. Gain Environment Agency licence for herbicide application within 20m of a watercourse. Ensure watercourses and banks are kept clear of arisings from tree work	Yes	None	n/a	March 2019

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GENERIC RISK ASSESSMENT FOR COMMERCIAL ARBORICULTURE

3:0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

Monitor and review at 6 monthly intervals, or when there are changes in Staff, Equipment, or Work Activity

GENERIC RISK ASSESSMENT FOR COMMERCIAL ARBORICULTURE

3:0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

Ref:	Hazard	Risk	Persons involved	Industry best practice/guidance	Date Issued	Control measures	Adequate ? Y/N	Action Required	By (date)	Completed (date)
3.2	Proposed work adjacent to protected species / habitat	<p>Damage to protected species or habitat:</p> <p>Damage to badger setts and so community of badgers.</p> <p>Disturbance to nesting or roosting places.</p> <p>Disturbance to habitat.</p>	Work team, client, general public	<p>Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended.</p> <p>EC Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds 1979 (79/409/EEC).</p> <p>EC Directive on Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Flora and Fauna 1992 (92/43/EEC).</p> <p>EC Directive 2000/60/EC Water Framework Directive.</p> <p>Badger Act 1981.</p> <p>The Deer Act 1991.</p> <p>The Protection of Badgers Act 1992.</p> <p>Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.</p> <p>English Nature "Bat mitigation guidelines" 2004.</p> <p>Arboricultural Association Guidance Note 1 "Trees and Bats" 2003</p>	Feb 2017	<p>Experienced surveyor to carry out visual check before works commence. If protected species present either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • delay works until animal moves off of its own accord (e.g. otter, snake etc.) or • delay works until a non-critical season – out of nesting, breeding or migration season, or • change scope of works to avoid disturbance of habitat, or • obtain relevant licence from English Nature (badger sett, bats, crayfish, watervoles). <p>as appropriate for the species or habitat present.</p> <p>Groundworks within 50 m of an active badger sett will require a license from English Nature.</p>	Yes	None	n/a	March 2019

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GENERIC RISK ASSESSMENT FOR COMMERCIAL ARBORICULTURE

3:0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

Ref:	Hazard	Risk	Persons involved	Industry best practice/guidance	Date Issued	Control measures	Adequate ? Y/N	Action Required	By (date)	Completed (date)
3.3	Excessive noise or noise at inappropriate times. Excessive dust.	Loss of enjoyment of property through noise or dust.	Work team, client, general public	Noise at Work Regulations 1989	Feb 2017	Only use correctly maintained and silenced vehicles, plant and equipment. Unless emergency work, limit working hours to 8:00 to 18:00 Monday to Friday. Site chipping equipment to avoid wind blowing debris onto private property.	Yes	None	n/a	March 2019

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GENERIC RISK ASSESSMENT FOR COMMERCIAL ARBORICULTURE

4:0 OPERATIONS

4:1 CHAIN SAWS – Common Factors

Ref:	Hazard	Risk	Persons involved	Industry best practice/guidance	Date Issued	Control measures	Adequate ? Y/N	Action Required	By (date)	Completed (date)
a	Fuelling	Fire/explosion: burns/blast injuries	Work team/ client/general public	HSE INDG317 "Chainsaws at work": AFAG Safety Guide 301, 308; NPTC CS30.1	Feb 2017	All operators trained and competent. Shaded fuelling site. Safe distance from any ignition source. Correct sealed containers. Saw fuel caps replaced securely.	Yes	None	n/a	March 2019
b	Maintenance: chain / bar	Cuts from chain / bar / hand tools	Work team	HSE INDG317 "Chainsaws at work": AFAG Safety Guide 301; NPTC CS30.1	Feb 2017	Avoid bare hand contact with chain and bar. Ensure files have handles. PPE.	Yes	None	n/a	March 2019
c	Noise	Deafness	Saw operator/ work team	HSE INDG317 "Chainsaws at work": AFAG Safety Guide 301, 801; NPTC CS30.2	Feb 2017	Correct saw maintenance (exhaust baffles, chain and bar). Hearing protectors. PPE	Yes	None	n/a	March 2019

Monitor and review at 6 monthly intervals, or when there are changes in Staff, Equipment, or Work Activity

GENERIC RISK ASSESSMENT FOR COMMERCIAL ARBORICULTURE

4:0 OPERATIONS

4:1 CHAIN SAWS – Common Factors - continued

Ref:	Hazard	Risk	Persons involved	Industry best practice/guidance	Date Issued	Control measures	Adequate ? Y/N	Action Required	By (date)	Completed (date)
d	Vibration	Vibration-induced White Finger (VWF), Hand Arm Vibration Syndrome (HAVS)	Saw operator, and particularly operators of large chainsaws	HS (G) 88 “Guide to Hand Arm Vibration”: INDG317 “Chainsaws at work”; HSE 246/31 “Reducing Risks of HAV Injury From Hand Held Power Tools”; AFAG Safety Guide 301; NPTC CS30.2	Feb 2017	Select appropriate equipment, monitor and carefully regulate exposure times against published data. Correct maintenance for A/V systems, chain and bar. Gloves worn. PPE. Use of lorry-mounted crane to reduce the need to cut large diameter or long lengths of roundwood into manageable pieces	Yes	None	n/a	March 2019
e	Poor handling	Muscular strain/ long-term injury	Saw operator	HSE INDG317 “Chainsaws at work”: AFAG Safety Guide 301, 302, 303, 304; NPTC CS30 - 45	Feb 2017	All operators trained and competent. Use of ergonomic work systems. Work planning.	Yes	None	n/a	March 2019
f	Contact with moving chain/ kickback	Cut injuries / laceration	Saw operator	HSE INDG317 “Chainsaws at work”: AFAG Safety Guide 301, 302, 303, 304, 306, 307, 308. Appropriate level of chainsaw competence as per NPTC CS units 30 to 45.	Feb 2017	All operators trained and competent. Saw safety features fitted and working. Correct bar and chain maintenance. PPE	Yes	None	n/a	March 2019

Monitor and review at 6 monthly intervals, or when there are changes in Staff, Equipment, or Work Activity

GENERIC RISK ASSESSMENT FOR COMMERCIAL ARBORICULTURE

4:0 OPERATIONS

4:2 TREE CLIMBING – Common Factors

Ref:	Hazard	Risk	Persons involved	Industry best practice/guidance	Date Issued	Control measures	Adequate ? Y/N	Action Required	By (date)	Completed (date)
a	Weak tree structure. See also 5.4 Mobile Elevating Work Platform	Failure of climber's anchor point, climber falls from tree, limbs fall on climber/ ground crew	Climber/ ground crew	AFAG Safety Guide 401, 403: "A Guide to Good Climbing Practice"; NPTC CS38; HSE Research Report 123 Use and effectiveness of mobile elevating work platforms for tree work	Feb 2017	All operators trained and certificated. Assessment of anchor points and tree. Ensure strength of anchor points. Use of supplementary anchor points. Avoid climbing: Consider the use of a Mobile Elevating Work Platform (MEWP) as means of access and/or as working platform.	Yes	None	n/a	March 2019
b	Equipment failure	Climber falls from or within tree: major or minor contact injuries	Climber/ ground crew	AFAG Safety Guide 401: "A Guide to Good Climbing Practice", NPTC CS38. HSE AIS 30: "LOLER: How the Regulations apply to Arboriculture"	Feb 2017	Daily checks of equipment. Worn/ damaged equipment withdrawn from service. Thorough Examination of Lifting Equipment (PPE climbing equipment every 6 months)	Yes	None	n/a	March 2019
c	Poor climbing technique: Free climbing, unprotected position, loss of balance	Climber falls from, or within, tree: major or minor contact injuries	Climber/ ground crew	AFAG Safety Guide 401, "A Guide to Good Climbing Practice", NPTC CS38	Feb 2017	All operators trained and certificated. Use of correct equipment and procedures. PPE.	Yes	None	n/a	March 2019

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GENERIC RISK ASSESSMENT FOR COMMERCIAL ARBORICULTURE

4:0 OPERATIONS

4:2 TREE CLIMBING – Common Factors - continued

Ref:	Hazard	Risk	Persons involved	Industry best practice/guidance	Date Issued	Control measures	Adequate ? Y/N	Action Required	By (date)	Completed (date)
d	Falling objects: equipment, tools, branches	Injury to persons and /or property below	Work team/ client/general public	AFAG Safety Guide 401, "A Guide to Good Climbing Practice"; NPTC CS38, 39, 40, 41, 45	Feb 2017	All operators trained and certificated. Correct use of tools, equipment and tool strops. Identified hazard areas. Communication procedures.	Yes	None	n/a	March 2019
e	Awkward movements when working in tree	Muscular strain, back injury	Climber	AFAG Safety Guide 401: "A Guide to Good Climbing Practice": "Aerial Rescue Guidance Notes": NPTC CS38, 39.	Feb 2017	All operators trained; Planned work programme. Ergonomic climbing techniques, and routing of ropes to achieve best working positions. Use of supplementary anchors.	Yes	None	n/a	March 2019

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GENERIC RISK ASSESSMENT FOR COMMERCIAL ARBORICULTURE

4:0 OPERATIONS

4:3 CHAIN SAW IN TREE – Common Factors

Ref:	Hazard	Risk	Persons involved	Industry best practice/guidance	Date Issued	Control measures	Adequate ? Y/N	Action Required	By (date)	Completed (date)
a	Top-handled saw use by climber	Kickback, cut injury / laceration. Cutting climbing rope causing fall injury / fatality	Saw operator/ ground crew	HSE INDG317 "Chainsaws at work": HSE CRR 402/2001 "Safe working methods with top-handled chainsaws"; AFAG Safety Guide 301, 308, 401; "A Guide to Good Climbing Practice"; NPTC CS30, 38, 39, 40 41	Feb 2017	All operators trained and certificated. Top handled saws used only in tree (apart from warm-up). Operator in correct position. Ropes kept in safe position. Use of supplementary anchor. Use of cut-proof strop if applicable. Chain brake applied before and after cutting. Two-handed use wherever possible, never "cut and hold". PPE.	Yes	None	n/a	March 2019
b	Passing saw to or from climber	Saw falling on ground staff. Rope damage	Saw operator/ ground crew	HSE INDG317 "Chainsaws at work": HSE CRR 402/2001 Safe working methods with top-handled chainsaws: AFAG Safety Guide 308, 401: "A Guide to Good Climbing Practice": NPTC CS30, 38, 39, 40, 41, 45.	Feb 2017	All operators trained and certificated. Good communication. Correct methods of attaching/ securing saw. Use of tool line if appropriate. PPE.	Yes	None	n/a	March 2019

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GENERIC RISK ASSESSMENT FOR COMMERCIAL ARBORICULTURE

4:0 OPERATIONS

4:3 CHAIN SAW IN TREE – Common Factors

Ref:	Hazard	Risk	Persons involved	Industry best practice/guidance	Date Issued	Control measures	Adequate ? Y/N	Action Required	By (date)	Completed (date)
c	Large saw use. See also 4.1 d Vibration	Kickback, cut injury / laceration, Vibration. Muscular strain, back injury. Cutting climbing rope/strop leading to slip or fall injury / fatality	Saw operator/ ground crew	HSE INDG317 “Chainsaws at work”: AFAG Safety Guide 301, 401: “A Guide to Good Climbing Practice”: NPTC CS30, 39, 41, 45.	Feb 2017	All operators trained and certificated. Saw is appropriate to task. Saw supported centrally on harness or on tool line if appropriate. Operator in correct position. Ropes kept in safe position. Use of supplementary anchor. Use of cut-proof stop if applicable. Chain brake applied before and after cutting. Two-handed use at all times. PPE.	Yes	None	n/a	March 2019

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GENERIC RISK ASSESSMENT FOR COMMERCIAL ARBORICULTURE

4:0 OPERATIONS

Ref:	Hazard	Risk	Persons involved	Industry best practice/guidance	Date Issued	Control measures	Adequate ? Y/N	Action Required	By (date)	Completed (date)
4.4	Branch removal	Cuts, impact/crush injuries,	Climber, ground crew, client/general public	HSE INDG317 "Chainsaws at work": AFAG Safety Guide 301, 401, 403, 308: "A Guide to Good Climbing Practice": NPTC CS30, 38, 39, 40, 41	Feb 2017	All operators trained and certificated. Correct climber position. Accurate severing cuts. Team communication. Work equipment, plant and machinery stored securely at suitable distance from tree. PPE. Client / General public excluded form work area	Yes	None	n/a	March 2019
4.5	Use of lowering equipment.	System failure, impact/crush injuries. Rope friction burns	Climber/ ground crew/	AFAG Safety Guide 301, 308, 401,403: "A Guide to Good Climbing Practice": NPTC CS38, 39, 40,41. HSE AIS 30: "LOLER: How the Regulations apply to Arboriculture"	Feb 2017	All operators trained and certificated. Equipment inspected regularly by a competent person. Thorough Examination of Lifting Equipment (lowering equipment every 12 months). Correct routing of ropes. Appropriate position and strength of anchor points, pulleys, etc. Working within Safe Working Load. Team communication.	Yes	None	n/a	March 2019

Monitor and review at 6 monthly intervals, or when there are changes in Staff, Equipment, or Work Activity

GENERIC RISK ASSESSMENT FOR COMMERCIAL ARBORICULTURE

4:0 OPERATIONS

Ref:	Hazard	Risk	Persons involved	Industry best practice/guidance	Date Issued	Control measures	Adequate ? Y/N	Action Required	By (date)	Completed (date)
4.6	Tree felling	Impact/crush injuries	Work team/ client/general public	HSE INDG317 "Chainsaws at work": AFAG Safety Guide 301, 302, 303, 304, 306, 307, 310, 501; NPTC CS30, 31, 32, 33, 44.	Feb 2017	All operators trained and certificated. Safe working distances. Escape routes maintained. Accuracy of cuts. Use of felling aids. PPE.	Yes	None	n/a	March 2019
4.7	Delimiting and cross cutting.	Chainsaw injury: Kickback, cut injury/ laceration. Impact/crush injury.	Work team/ client	HSE INDG317 "Chainsaws at work": AFAG Safety Guide 301, 303, 304. NPTC CS30, 31, 32, 33	Feb 2017	All operators trained and certificated. Work planning. Safe working distances. Escape routes maintained. PPE	Yes	None	n/a	March 2019
4.8	Storm damaged trees: Extreme tension.	Chainsaw injury: Kickback, cut injury/ laceration. Impact/crush injury.	Work team/ client/ emergency services personnel	AFAG Safety Guide 302, 304, 306, 310; NPTC CS31, 32, 34, 35	Feb 2017	All operators trained and certificated. Work planning. Safe working distances. Escape routes maintained. Correct assessment of tension and compression. Safe use of winch. PPE	No	Training required	Dec 2019	March 2019

Monitor and review at 6 monthly intervals, or when there are changes in Staff, Equipment, or Work Activity

GENERIC RISK ASSESSMENT FOR COMMERCIAL ARBORICULTURE

4:0 OPERATIONS

Ref:	Hazard	Risk	Persons involved	Industry best practice/guidance	Date Issued	Control measures	Adequate ? Y/N	Action Required	By (date)	Completed (date)
4.9	Chemical spraying.	Contamination, poisoning.	Operator/ work team/ client/general public	AFAG Safety Guide 102, 202; NPTC PA1, PA2, PA6	Feb 2017	All operators trained and certificated. Choice of application method. Safe and secure storage. Operation in accordance with COSHH assessment. Data information available. Accurate calibration and mixing. PPE. Washing facilities. Correct disposal of waste. Medical surveillance.	No	No requirement	n/a	March 2019

Monitor and review at 6 monthly intervals, or when there are changes in Staff, Equipment, or Work Activity

GENERIC RISK ASSESSMENT FOR COMMERCIAL ARBORICULTURE

5.0 MACHINERY

Ref:	Hazard	Risk	Persons involved	Industry best practice/guidance	Date Issued	Control measures	Adequate ? Y/N	Action Required	By (date)	Completed (date)
5.1	Brushwood chippers	Cuts, noise (deafness), limb injury, eye injury.	Operator/ work team/ client/general public.	AFAG Safety Guide 604: HSE Agricultural Information Sheet 38: "Power-fed mobile wood chippers: Operator protection at infeed chutes"; NPTC Certificate of Competence in Brushwood Chipper Operations	Feb 2017	All operators trained. Manufacturers instruction manual available. All guards and warnings in place. Regular machine maintenance. Safe fuelling and storage of fuel. Unauthorised personnel excluded from work area: signs, barriers, etc. PPE.	Yes	None	n/a	March 2019
5.2	Stump grinders	Cuts, noise (deafness) injury from flying debris. Injury from contact with cutter wheel or contact with underground services	Operator/ work team/ client/general public.	AFAG Safety Guide 606: HSE HSG47 "Avoiding danger from underground services": NPTC Certificate of Competence in Stump Grinding Operations	Feb 2017	All operators trained. Manufacturers instruction manual available. All guards and warnings in place. Regular machine maintenance. Safe fuelling and storage of fuel Adequate barriers for flying debris. Unauthorised personnel excluded from work area: signs, barriers, etc. PPE.	No	Training required	Dec 2018	March 2019

Monitor and review at 6 monthly intervals, or when there are changes in Staff, Equipment, or Work Activity

GENERIC RISK ASSESSMENT FOR COMMERCIAL ARBORICULTURE

5.0 MACHINERY

Ref:	Hazard	Risk	Persons involved	Industry best practice/guidance	Date Issued	Control measures	Adequate ? Y/N	Action Required	By (date)	Completed (date)
5.3	Winches – hand or mechanical	Injuries from: failure of equipment, whiplash, and worn cables.	Operator/ work team/ client/general public.	AFAG Safety Guide 310, 502: HSE AS15 “Farm and estate forestry operations”: NPTC CS30-35:	Feb 2017	All operators trained. Regular machine maintenance. Equipment inspected regularly by a competent person. Thorough Examination of Lifting Equipment (every 12 months). SWL known: all strops, shackles and cables to SWL minimum. PPE.	Yes	None	n/a	March 2019
5.4	Brushcutters / Clearing saws	Cuts, noise (deafness) injury from flying debris. Injury from contact with cutting head / blade	Operator/ work team/ client/general public.	AFAG Safety Guide 203; NPTC Certificate of Competence in Brushcutting Operations	Feb 2017	All operators trained. Regular machine maintenance. Safe fuelling and storage of fuel Correct fitting of harness. Unauthorised personnel excluded from work area: signs, barriers, etc. PPE.	Yes	None	n/a	March 2019
5.5	Hedge-trimmers (See also: 2.1 d: Access equipment)	Cuts, noise (deafness) Injury from contact with cutting knives	Operator/ work team/ client/general public.	Manufacturer’s operator manual. NPTC AO 11: “Specialist pruning”	Feb 2017	All operators trained. Regular machine maintenance. Safe fuelling and storage of fuel. Unauthorised personnel excluded from work area: signs, barriers, etc. PPE.	Yes	None	n/a	March 2019

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GENERIC RISK ASSESSMENT FOR COMMERCIAL ARBORICULTURE

5.0 MACHINERY

Ref:	Hazard	Risk	Persons involved	Industry best practice/guidance	Date Issued	Control measures	Adequate ? Y/N	Action Required	By (date)	Completed (date)
5.6	Mechanised pole pruner	Cuts, noise (deafness); Injury from contact with chain, severed sections falling on operator / others	Operator/ work team/ client/general public.	Manufacturer's operator manual. NPTC CS 48: "Mechanised pole pruner"	Feb 2017	All operators trained. Regular machine maintenance. Safe fuelling and storage of fuel. Observe working height / angle limits. Unauthorised personnel excluded from work area: signs, barriers, etc. PPE.	Yes	None	n/a	March 2019
5.7	Mobile elevated work platform (MEWP)	Injuries from: Operator falling from MEWP. MEWP falling over. Equipment failure. MEWP colliding with power lines/ vehicles/other structures	Operator/ work team/ client/general public.	AFAG Safety Guide 403; NPTC Certificate of Competence in Mobile Elevated Work Platforms. HSE Research Report 123: "Use and effectiveness of mobile elevating work platforms for tree work", HSE information sheet MISC 614: "Preventing falls from boom-type mobile elevating work platforms"	Feb 2017	All operators trained and certificated. Manufacturers instruction manual available. Regular machine maintenance. Regular inspection by a competent person. Thorough Examination of Lifting Equipment (every 12 months) Appropriate work restraint / fall arrest system used. SWL clearly marked and observed. Safe positioning in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations. Safe working area clearly defined. No work within power line exclusion zone. PPE.	No	Training required	Feb 2019	March 2019

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GENERIC RISK ASSESSMENT FOR COMMERCIAL ARBORICULTURE

5.0 MACHINERY

Ref:	Hazard	Risk	Persons involved	Industry best practice/guidance	Date Issued	Control measures	Adequate ? Y/N	Action Required	By (date)	Completed (date)
5.8	Cranes	Equipment failure. Crush injuries from falling or swinging material. Working from hook/basket. Contact with power lines.	Operator/ work team/ client/general public.	AFAG Safety Guide 504:	Feb 2017	All operators trained. Trained crane operator conversant with tree work. All guards and warnings in place. Regular machine maintenance. Unauthorised personnel excluded from work area: signs, barriers, etc. Team communication. Agreed work plan. PPE. Insurance covering any hire agreement is adequate.	No	No requirement	n/a	March 2019
5.9	Lorry mounted hydraulic loading arm, e.g. HIAB	Equipment failure. Crush injuries from falling or swinging material. Working from hook/basket. Contact with power lines	Operator/ work team/ client/general public.	Manufacturer's instruction manual	Feb 2017	All operators trained and conversant with tree work. All guards and warnings in place. Regular machine maintenance. Unauthorised personnel excluded from work area: signs, barriers, etc. Team communication. Agreed work plan. PPE. Insurance covering any hire agreement is adequate.	No	No requirement	n/a	March 2019

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