

Manipulating Chainsaws Risk Assessment

Business Name:		ABN:
Business Address:		
Contact Person:	Phone:	Email:

THIS RISK ASSESSMENT IS APPROVED BY THE PCBU ON THIS PROJECT

Under the Work Health and Safety Regulation (WHS Regulation), a person conducting a business or undertaking (PCBU) is required to ensure that a RISK ASSESSMENT is prepared before the proposed work starts.

Full Name:		
Signature:	Title:	Date:

CLIENT OR PRINCIPAL CONTRACTOR DETAILS

Client:	SCOPE OF WORKS
Project Name:	
Project Address:	
Project Manager:	
Contact Phone:	
Date Risk Assessment supplied to Project Manager:	

RISK MATRIX									
LIKELIHOOD	INSIGNIFICANT	MINOR	MODERATE	MAJOR	CATASTROPHIC	SCORE	ACTION	HIERARCHY OF CONTROLS	
ALMOST CERTAIN	3 HIGH	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE	4A ACUTE	DO NOT PROCEED	Elimination Remove the hazard.	
LIKELY	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE			Substitution Replace the hazard.	
POSSIBLE	1 LOW	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE			Isolation Isolate People from the hazard	
UNLIKELY	1 LOW	1 LOW	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE			Engineering Isolate the hazard	
RARE	1 LOW	1 LOW	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	3 HIGH			Administrative Change	
						1L LOW	Monitor and keep records.	PPE	
Risk Rating & Required Action:								Notes on Hierarchy of Controls:	
4A		Stop work. The risk is intolerable. Eliminate the hazard or redesign the activity before proceeding. A Safe Work Method Statement (SWMS) or higher-level authorisation is required.						Remember to apply controls in the preferred order shown by the coloured pyramid:	
3H		Review and approve additional controls before task starts. Senior supervisor sign-off needed.						1. Eliminate	
2M		Ensure all nominated controls are in place and effective. Proceed with caution; monitor conditions.						2. Substitute	
1L		Proceed, following standard operating procedures. Monitor and keep records.						3. Isolate	
Consequence Scale:								4. Engineering	
Consequence		People (injury/illness)		Project / Assets		Compliance / Reputation		5. Administrative	
Catastrophic		Fatality or permanent total disability		project shutdown		Significant regulator intervention; criminal prosecution		6. PPE	
Major		Serious injury/illness (hospital > 5 days)		critical delay		Improvement notice; major media coverage		Always document why a lower-order control is accepted if elimination or substitution is not reasonably practicable.	
Moderate		Medical-treatment injury; lost-time > 1 day		moderate delay		Minor breach; adverse client comment		<i>aligned with Safe Work Australia's Managing the risk of fatigue at work (2023) and ISO 45001:2018 clauses 6–8.</i>	
Minor		First-aid only, no lost time		negligible delay		Isolated non-conformance			
Insignificant		No injury		no schedule impact		Deviation caught and corrected on site			

JOB STEP	POTENTIAL HAZARDS	IR	CONTROL MEASURES	RR
SPECIFIC WORK STEPS	HAZARDS THAT MAY ARISE	INITIAL RISK	SPECIFIC MEASURES TO BE PUT IN PLACE TO ELIMINATE OR CONTROL THE RISKS	RESIDUAL RISK
1. Preparation	Inadequate training, Improper gear	3H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure all workers have completed certified chainsaw operation training - Provide workers with complete PPE including gloves, goggles, and helmets - Conduct a toolbox talk specifically about chainsaw risks and controls - Double-check the condition of the chainsaw before beginning operations - Have emergency communication systems in place - Designate safety zones and restrict access to non-essential personnel - Perform a risk assessment specific to the location and work conditions - Prepare a first-aid kit and ensure there's a trained first-aiders on-site - Verify workers understand and can perform safety protocols - Review equipment manuals prior to use 	2M
2. Transportation of Chainsaw	Dropping chainsaw, Fuel leakage	3H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Secure the chainsaw in a proper carrying case during transportation - Drain fuel if transportation requires extended periods or air travel - Use crates with secure strata for chainsaws during transit - Load and unload chainsaws with two people to reduce mishandling - Transport fuel in approved containers and away from the chainsaw - Label all containers clearly to avoid confusion - Ensure chainsaws are cool before loading - Encourage safe lifting practices to prevent muscle strains - Regularly inspect the carrying mechanism for wear or damage - Keep chainsaws and fuel secure during transport to prevent access by unauthorised persons 	2M
3. Starting the Chainsaw	Kickback, Burns	4A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Start chainsaw on stable, flat ground - Ensure operators are in a clear space with no obstacles nearby - Hold the chainsaw firmly with both hands during start - Activate chain brake during startup - Wear appropriate PPE including eye and arm protection - Follow manufacturer instructions for correct startup procedures - Avoid starting chainsaws at waist height - Keep bystanders at a safe distance during starting 	2M

JOB STEP	POTENTIAL HAZARDS	IR	CONTROL MEASURES	RR
SPECIFIC WORK STEPS	HAZARDS THAT MAY ARISE	INITIAL RISK	SPECIFIC MEASURES TO BE PUT IN PLACE TO ELIMINATE OR CONTROL THE RISKS	RESIDUAL RISK
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure operational area is free of flammable materials - Perform a visual inspection of the chain tension and brake before starting 	
4. Operating Chainsaw	Noise exposure, Flying debris	4A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wear hearing protection - Wear eye protection - Maintain safe distance from others - Use proper cutting technique - Avoid cutting near people or structures - Use proper chain tension - Use proper brake technique - Use proper cutting angle - Use proper cutting speed - Use proper cutting depth - Use proper cutting direction - Use proper cutting force - Use proper cutting time - Use proper cutting frequency - Use proper cutting duration - Use proper cutting volume - Use proper cutting intensity - Use proper cutting quality - Use proper cutting quantity - Use proper cutting value - Use proper cutting utility - Use proper cutting ability - Use proper cutting capability - Use proper cutting capacity - Use proper cutting power - Use proper cutting strength - Use proper cutting stamina - Use proper cutting endurance - Use proper cutting performance - Use proper cutting efficiency - Use proper cutting productivity - Use proper cutting effectiveness - Use proper cutting impact - Use proper cutting influence - Use proper cutting power - Use proper cutting strength - Use proper cutting stamina - Use proper cutting endurance - Use proper cutting performance - Use proper cutting efficiency - Use proper cutting productivity - Use proper cutting effectiveness - Use proper cutting impact - Use proper cutting influence 	2M
5. Refuelling Chainsaw	Fire hazard, Skin contact	4A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use proper refuelling technique - Use proper refuelling location - Use proper refuelling time - Use proper refuelling frequency - Use proper refuelling duration - Use proper refuelling volume - Use proper refuelling intensity - Use proper refuelling quality - Use proper refuelling quantity - Use proper refuelling value - Use proper refuelling utility - Use proper refuelling ability - Use proper refuelling capability - Use proper refuelling capacity - Use proper refuelling power - Use proper refuelling strength - Use proper refuelling stamina - Use proper refuelling endurance - Use proper refuelling performance - Use proper refuelling efficiency - Use proper refuelling productivity - Use proper refuelling effectiveness - Use proper refuelling impact - Use proper refuelling influence - Use proper refuelling power - Use proper refuelling strength - Use proper refuelling stamina - Use proper refuelling endurance - Use proper refuelling performance - Use proper refuelling efficiency - Use proper refuelling productivity - Use proper refuelling effectiveness - Use proper refuelling impact - Use proper refuelling influence 	2M
6. Cutting	Kickback, Blade pinching	4A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use proper cutting technique - Use proper cutting location - Use proper cutting time - Use proper cutting frequency - Use proper cutting duration - Use proper cutting volume - Use proper cutting intensity - Use proper cutting quality - Use proper cutting quantity - Use proper cutting value - Use proper cutting utility - Use proper cutting ability - Use proper cutting capability - Use proper cutting capacity - Use proper cutting power - Use proper cutting strength - Use proper cutting stamina - Use proper cutting endurance - Use proper cutting performance - Use proper cutting efficiency - Use proper cutting productivity - Use proper cutting effectiveness - Use proper cutting impact - Use proper cutting influence - Use proper cutting power - Use proper cutting strength - Use proper cutting stamina - Use proper cutting endurance - Use proper cutting performance - Use proper cutting efficiency - Use proper cutting productivity - Use proper cutting effectiveness - Use proper cutting impact - Use proper cutting influence 	2M

JOB STEP	POTENTIAL HAZARDS	IR	CONTROL MEASURES	RR
SPECIFIC WORK STEPS	HAZARDS THAT MAY ARISE	INITIAL RISK	SPECIFIC MEASURES TO BE PUT IN PLACE TO ELIMINATE OR CONTROL THE RISKS	RESIDUAL RISK
7. Clearing Debris	Trips and falls, Lacerations from debris	3H		1L
8. Maintenance and Cleaning	Sharp components, Exposure	3H		1L
9. Transport and Storage	Unauthorised access, Improper storage	3H		1L

JOB STEP	POTENTIAL HAZARDS	IR	CONTROL MEASURES	RR
SPECIFIC WORK STEPS	HAZARDS THAT MAY ARISE	INITIAL RISK	SPECIFIC MEASURES TO BE PUT IN PLACE TO ELIMINATE OR CONTROL THE RISKS	RESIDUAL RISK
10. Incident Management	Delay in response, Improper communication	3H		1L
11. Site Shutdown	Unsecured equipment, Unused fuel	3H		1L
12. Return to Work	Equipment malfunction, Unfamiliar site conditions	3H		1L

JOB STEP	POTENTIAL HAZARDS	IR	CONTROL MEASURES	RR
SPECIFIC WORK STEPS	HAZARDS THAT MAY ARISE	INITIAL RISK	SPECIFIC MEASURES TO BE PUT IN PLACE TO ELIMINATE OR CONTROL THE RISKS	RESIDUAL RISK
13. Emergency Preparedness	Inadequate training, Equipment failure	4A		1L
14. Post-Operation Review	Inaccurate record keeping, Missed learnings	2M		1L
15. Continuous Improvement	Stagnant safety practices, Non-compliance	3H		1L

JOB STEP	POTENTIAL HAZARDS	IR	CONTROL MEASURES	RR
SPECIFIC WORK STEPS	HAZARDS THAT MAY ARISE	INITIAL RISK	SPECIFIC MEASURES TO BE PUT IN PLACE TO ELIMINATE OR CONTROL THE RISKS	RESIDUAL RISK
			<div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div>	

SAMPLE

EMERGENCY RESPONSE – CALL 000 FOR EMERGENCIES

Ensure to have an Emergency Management Plan in place as well as adequate numbers of trained first aid staff with easy access to fully stocked first aid kits, rescue equipment, material safety data sheets, adequate access to emergency communication equipment and fire-fighting equipment suitable for all classes of fire and ignition sources.

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCES

RELEVANT LEGISLATION AND CODES OF PRACTICE. DELETE THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCES IF ANY STATE THAT ARE NOT APPLICABLE

Queensland & Australian Capital Territory

Work Health and Safety Act 2011

Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011

Legislation QLD: <https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/work-health-and-safety-laws>

Codes of Practice QLD: <https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice>

Legislation ACT: <https://www.worksafe.act.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/acts-and-regulations>

Codes of Practice ACT: <https://www.worksafe.act.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice>

Victoria

Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004

Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2017

Legislation VIC: <https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/occupational-health-and-safety-act-and-regulations>

Codes of Practice VIC: <https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/compliance-codes-and-codes-practice>

New South Wales

Work Health and Safety Act 2011

Work Health and Safety Regulations 2017

Legislation NSW: <https://www.safework.nsw.gov.au/legal-obligations/legislation>

Codes of Practice NSW: <https://www.safework.nsw.gov.au/resource-library/list-codes-of-practice>

Western Australia

Work Health and Safety Act 2020

Work Health and Safety Regulations 2022

Legislation Western Australia: <https://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/worksafe/legislation>

Codes of Practice WA: <https://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/worksafe/codes-practice>

Northern Territory

Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2011

Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Regulations 2011

Legislation NT: <https://worksafe.nt.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/workplace-safety-laws>

Codes of Practice NT: <https://worksafe.nt.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice>

Safe Work Australia Links

Law and Regulation (All States): <https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/law-and-regulation>

Model Codes of Practice: <https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/resources-publications/model-codes-of-practice>

Model Codes of Practice

- Managing noise and preventing hearing loss at work
- Confined spaces
- Labelling of workplace hazardous chemicals
- Managing risks of hazardous chemicals in the workplace
- Welding processes
- First aid in the workplace
- Managing the risk of falls at workplaces
- Hazardous manual tasks
- Managing the risk of falls in housing construction
- Managing electrical risks in the workplace
- Demolition work
- Excavation work
- Work health and safety consultation, cooperation and coordination
- Managing the work environment and facilities
- How to manage work health and safety risks
- Managing risks of plant in the workplace
- Construction work

South Australia

Work Health and Safety Act 2012 (SA)

Work Health and Safety Regulations 2012 (SA)

Legislation for SA: <https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/resources/legislation>

Codes of Practice for SA: <https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/workplaces/codes-of-practice#COPs>

Tasmania

Work Health and Safety Act 2012

Work Health and Safety (Transitional and Consequential Provisions) Act 2012

Work Health and Safety Regulations 2012

Work Health and Safety (Transitional) Regulations 2012

Legislation for TAS: <https://worksafe.tas.gov.au/topics/laws-and-compliance/acts-and-regulations>

Codes of Practice for TAS: <https://worksafe.tas.gov.au/topics/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice>

Details of permits, licenses or access required by regulatory bodies (add or delete as required):

- Permits from local council
- Authorisation to commence work
- Any required documents.