

Strathkinness Community Trust Generic Risk Assessment Wood Fuel Group and Woodland Management

Strathkinness Community Trust		Area – Bishops Wood, Magus Muir	Assessed by – Tony Wilson James Tebbs and Bob Bilson		Date –	
What are the Hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you doing already?	What further action is Necessary?	Action by whom?	Action by when?	Done?
<p>Traffic::</p> <p>Walking alongside and working on trees in proximity to roads and car parks</p>	<p>Volunteers and Members of the public</p> <p>Musculoskeletal injuries, Possibly leading to death and disability</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High visibility clothing to be worn at all times when undertaking tree felling and woodland management. Volunteers should be aware at all times of the likely presence of vehicles in car parks. If working at car park sites, or at sites close to roads, areas should be cordoned off as necessary. Competent professional contractors should be used If felling trees near minor roads and Relevant highways agency should be contacted to manage traffic <p>Volunteers should park cars in safe manner and location, where it is safe to exit and load and unload tools and equipment.</p>				
<p>Terrain:</p> <p>Accessing sites and working on slippery, loose and uneven surfaces</p>	<p>Volunteers and Members of the public</p> <p>Falling/tripping/slipping, leading to fractures, spinal damage, sprains and head injuries</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteers to be provided with advice regarding terrain and surfaces. <p>Volunteers to wear suitable footwear If felling trees. Volunteers to be advised of emergency access points and provide a dynamic risk assessments of site before commencing the activity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure the site is clear of any hazards and that sure footing is obtained before commencing work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site assessed prior to activity and hazards removed. 			

		<p>Tree felling should not be undertaken in wet conditions, as ground will be slippery underfoot.</p> <p>If felling trees or carrying out logging duties close to foot paths volunteers must provide marshals to warn and keep public away from the activity</p>				
<p>Experience and training:</p> <p>Lack of relevant training and experience to undertake wood fuel and woodland management activities</p>	<p>Volunteers and Members of the public</p> <p>Heightened consequences and risk of accident. Also higher levels of stress and anxiety, leading to serious illness, injury and death</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where applicable, Volunteers should receive relevant training and experience to be able to undertake woodland management activities confidently and with the knowledge required. • Volunteers should have training to use the types of tools required for the activity • Only those volunteers who have specialist training and formal certification to use mechanized machinery such as Strimmers and chainsaws etc. should operate these types of tools.) • Volunteers undertaking woodland management activities must be provided with adequate time and resources to prepare for task. • Volunteers should have received a full induction when joining the Wood Fuel Group • Trained first aiders complete with first aid kit to be on location during the performance of all woodland activities. 				
<p>Manual Handling: lifting, carrying tools and equipment and heavy objects. Barrowing and manually carrying bags of logs</p>	<p>Volunteers and Members of the public</p> <p>Musculoskeletal injuries, leading to chronic pain and physiological disorders.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteers should not exceed their capabilities and should ask for assistance if required. Volunteers should comply with manual handling guidance. • Lifting and carrying equipment should be made available to volunteers and training provided where necessary. Where possible 				

		<p>heavier loads spilt into lighter loads. Timber should be cut into small sections, these should be manageable so can be easily lifted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The activity should be planned in advance and where necessary a manual handling risk assessment should be carried out. • Volunteers to advise the committee team of any pre-existing medical condition, which may affect their ability to carry out manual handling activities safely. • Footwear should be suitable for woodland management tasks so as not to contribute to slip, trip or falls • Tasks should be rotated and regular breaks taken so volunteers are not carrying out manual handling activities for prolonged periods. • Safety talk should be given to volunteers prior to undertaking woodland management activities. 				
Weather: Exposure to Heat or Cold	SCT Volunteers should be aware of increased risk of conditions such as hyperthermia or hypothermia due to extremes of temperature	<p>Volunteers leader to check weather forecast to assess suitability of the weather prior to planning any activity Volunteers to be advised of increased risk</p> <p>Activity to be postponed in periods of severe weather</p>				
Exposure to heavy rain or high winds	<p>SCT Volunteers have an Increased risk of Hypothermia and slips trips or falls in wet conditions.</p> <p>Increased risk of injury from falling branches and trees</p>	<p>Volunteer leader to check weather forecast to assess suitability of the weather prior to planning any activity.</p> <p>Volunteers to be advised of increased risk</p> <p>Activity to be postponed in periods of severe weather</p>				

Strathkinness Community Council		Area – Community Garden Bonfield Road	Assessed by – James Tebbs		Date – 10-9-2022	
What are the Hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you doing already?	What further action is Necessary?	Action by whom?	Action by when?	Done?
Vegetation: Loose and overhanging branches, scrub clearing and vegetation	Head/eye injuries, leading to possibility of brain injury and loss of sight	Volunteers should assess site prior to undertaking woodland management activities and use dynamic risk assessing throughout the activity, taking care and avoiding overhanging branches. If scrub clearing operations are undertaken, ensure that Strimmer operators wear appropriate eye and face protection, to guard against potential fecal remains being in the grass.				
Trees and branches: Over hanging branches loose/broken limbs	Head/eye injuries, leading to possibility of brain injury and loss of sight	Operators of chainsaws must wear compliant safety headwear EN 397, which is well fitted and in good condition. Hard hats should be made available for Volunteers working under trees. Volunteers should assess site for hung up trees and branches before activities are undertaken, altering operations if required. A safety zone should be set up around the felling site with banks people and signage utilized to maintain zone. Eye protection should be considered for the group dependent on the nature and risks of work being undertaken. Volunteers should be at a minimum distance of 2 x tree lengths away prior to tree felling operations by Volunteers. If overhead cables are present an individual site task based risk assessment must be undertaken. Safety talk should be given to volunteers prior to task.				
Electricity: Contact with overhead electricity sources	Electrocution leading to disability and death	Prior to commencing operations, the worksite must be checked by the Wood fuel group leaders to ensure worksite is clear of any overhead electrical cables If overhead cables are present an individual site task based risk assessment must be undertaken. No work shall be undertaken without prior notification and consent being attained from the appropriate authority. Contact utility supplier if underground services				

		are detected.				
Isolation: Lone and remote working	Risks are enhanced by remote working, without mobile signal and a greater distance to emergency services.	No un accompanied or lone working woodland management or logging operations are to be conducted by volunteers under any circumstances				
Dogs and members of the public: in work area and in danger of being hit, or dogs causing accident	Open wounds and bite injuries caused by dogs. Possibility of members of the public receiving injuries such as crushing injuries	Signage should be put out within work area, to warn the public of woodland management operations and hazard tape used to cordon off work areas if necessary. Chainsaw operation should always have Banksmen to advise members of public to keep clear of work area and keep their dogs under control. Chainsaw operators and Banksmen should make sure they are visible and utilize hi visibility clothing. Banksmen and operators to use agreed communication method to signal of approaching public. Work should stop to allow public to pass where necessary. Volunteers should be aware of risks of dogs and avoid where possible. Volunteers should report dangerous dog behaviour to police. Volunteers should advise owners to keep dogs on lead or under control when approaching work site and should not approach unknown dogs				

Strathkinness Community Council	Area – Community Garden Bonfield Road	Assessed by – James Tebbs	Date – 10-9-2022
---------------------------------	---------------------------------------	---------------------------	------------------

What are the Hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you doing already?	What further action is Necessary?	Action by whom?	Action by when?	Done?
<p>Biohazards: Insects/ticks and plants</p>	<p>Range of reactions, from mild itch to death through anaphylactic shock and Lyme disease.</p>	<p>volunteers should highlight allergies to Wood fuel group leaders. Volunteers should wear insect repellent when necessary. Activity cancelled if biting insects become intolerable. Avoid walking through brambles, nettles etc. Volunteers should wear trousers and long sleeves. Gloves should be worn. Cleared vegetation and timber, unless being stacked into safe habitat piles, should be removed from work site, and not left on paths or car parks. Safety talk should be given to volunteers prior to undertaking woodland management activities. Volunteers to check their own person for ticks as soon as practical post operations..</p>				
<p>Bio Hazards: contact with water and soil while undertaking woodland management activities</p>	<p>Infection and disease from soils, water and dirty surfaces including tetanus, Cyanobacteria and Leptospirosis.</p>	<p>Volunteers provided with anti bacterial gels, and surgical gloves if required. Wood fuel group leaders advised to watch out for Cyanobacteria and advise SEPA if they see it. Volunteers to cover any cuts on hands and arms. Wash hands (and arms if necessary) after any activity where there may be faeces present. Volunteers are advised to see a doctor if any symptoms develop. Take rest breaks and meal breaks away from the main work area. Volunteers are advised to avoid placing unprotected hands in water where possible. Volunteers to clean wellingtons/waders if they have been in water</p>				
<p>Ditch and Culvert clearing Working near water:</p>	<p>Potential of drowning and hypothermia. Leading to possible brain damage and death.</p>	<p>Volunteers should assess site prior to the activity and use dynamic risk assessing during the activity. Ideally Volunteers should work in pairs. Volunteers who fall into water should be assisted to a place where they can be warmed up and given hot food/drink to</p>				

		<p>assist warming. Call emergency services in circumstances where drowning might happen.</p>				
Biohazard: Animal faeces	Potential of diseases e.g. Toxocara canis	<p>Volunteers should avoid where possible walking in long grass and undergrowth. Do not touch animal faeces. If need to remove use gloves and a shovel and dispose of all contaminated waste safely. Cover all new and existing cuts and grazes with waterproof dressings and or gloves before commencing work activity.</p> <p>If cuts, grazes occur wash immediately with soap and running water and apply a dressing.</p> <p>Wash hands (and arms if necessary) after any activity where there may be faeces present and prior to eating, drinking, using the telephone, taking medication, applying make up, inserting contact lenses or smoking</p> <p>If wash facilities are not immediately available use bacterial hand wash, spray.</p>				

Strathkinness Community Council		Area – Community Garden Bonfield Road	Assessed by – James Tebbs		Date – 10-9-2022	
What are the Hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you doing already?	What further action is Necessary?	Action by whom?	Action by when?	Done?
Hand tools: Carriage for scrub and ditch clearing activities including rakes, forks, spades and loppers	Laceration, crush, Musculoskeletal injuries, leading to possible major injuries and death					
Countryside infrastructure: gates, bridges fences etc.	Cuts, abrasions possible broken bones, crushing injury	<p>Volunteers should use dynamic risk assessing during the activity.</p> <p>Volunteers should use visual inspection while using countryside infrastructure such as gates and bridges. Ensuring their own and group safety.</p> <p>Report defective hand tools to SCT.</p>				

Illness	Range from headache and cold to flu and food poisoning to heart attacks, brain problems and blood clots.	Volunteers should always carry charged, functioning mobile phone. If out with volunteers, a trained first aider must be in attendance and carrying a first aid kit. Any volunteers should advise SCT management prior to undertaking activities if they suffer from any pre-existing medical condition that would affect their ability to safely take part. If at any time a volunteers starts to feel unwell then they should advise the designated person or if not practicable the nearest person to raise the alarm. Emergency Services contacted as soon as possible.				
Poisonous Fungi/Plants: May be present within grass being cut	Sickness vomiting and death	Volunteers to avoid picking fungi or other wild plants/berries. Volunteers to know the signs of poisoning and seek medical help immediately if any symptoms arise. Cover all new and existing cuts and grazes with waterproof dressings and or gloves before commencing work activity. If cuts, grazes occur wash immediately with soap and running water and apply a dressing. Wash hands (and arms if necessary) after any activity where there may be faeces present and prior to eating, drinking, using the telephone, taking medication, applying make up, inserting contact lenses or smoking. If wash facilities are not immediately available use bacterial hand wash, spray.				

Strathkinness Community Council		Area – Community Garden Bonfield Road	Assessed by – James Tebbs		Date – 10-9-2022	
What are the Hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you doing already?	What further action is Necessary?	Action by whom?	Action by when?	Done?

Tree cutting, tree felling and log cutting hand tools including Hand Saws, Axes And log Splitters						
Petrol and diesel driven power tools and vehicles: Used for Grass cutting, Tree felling, Log Sawing transporting tools and raw materials	Explosion and skin irritations from fuel, skeletal and muscular injuries from sharp edges and moving parts	Refer to risk assessments for all tools being operated. These include but not exhaustive: Strimmer and Brush Cutter, Chainsaw				
Specialist equipment used for Tree Felling						
Sharp Objects: such as broken glass, stones, bottles or nails which may be hidden in grass or vegetation and may be disturbed when cutting	Lacerations, puncture wounds, eye injuries	<p>Site Reconnaissance, identifying and removing potential harmful objects from activity site if safe to do so with a appropriate PPE and litter picker. Only pick up glass using litter pickers and if wearing suitable gloves and dispose of safely.</p> <p>If lots of glass, glass should be placed in a bucket and carried separately, not put in bin bags.</p> <p>Bin bags may need to be doubled up if sharp objects so don't bang against the legs. Bin bags should be of a high quality and thick.</p> <p>Appropriate protective footwear to be worn by all Volunteers. These should preferably be sturdy boots. Long trousers and long sleeves must be worn.</p> <p>Volunteers advised in advance of appropriate footwear and clothing to be worn.</p> <p>Volunteers to avoid where possible walking through dense vegetation/undergrowth.</p>				
Sharps: used/unused needles and syringes potentially hidden	<p>Lacerations/Puncture wound/</p> <p>Risk of disease leading to Hepatitis B, HIV and other</p>	Site Reconnaissance, identifying and removing potential harmful objects from activity site if safe to do so with a appropriate PPE and litter picker.				

in grass or vegetation being cut.	blood borne infections.	<p>Avoid where possible walking through dense vegetation/undergrowth. If accidentally touching a needle/syringe, medical help must be obtained as soon as possible. Volunteers to carry mobile phone.</p>				
Tree tubes and tree stakes	Lacerations, puncture wounds, crushing injuries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gloves should be worn when carrying and handling tree tubes and stakes. • When holding tree stake being hammered into ground, wear gloves, and hold onto stake part way down stake, not at top where stake is hammered. 				