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SAFETY STATEMENT

ABC Company

Address Line 1

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Disclaimer

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1.1 APPLICATION

This Safety Statement has been developed to assist ABC Company comply with relevant H&S standards and to ensure that clients are fully aware of ABC Company's commitment to high standards in H&S.

ABC Company operates in the general area of Tree Surgery and will occasionally work on Garden/Grounds Maintenance. Every effort has been made to identify the hazards in the business and set out relevant control measures. It is accepted that from time to time new hazards may arise. These hazards should be identified via our inspection and feedback controls. When new hazards are identified a new risk assessment shall be completed and the relevant control measures shall be added to this Statement.

1.2 OBJECTIVES OF THE SAFETY STATEMENT

To provide a reference for the policies and procedures used in house and at any Client sites. It is also used to assess and audit the levels of health and safety being achieved.

To provide evidence that the policies and procedures to ensure health and safety objectives are met and have been thought out and documented in order to help those who must execute them.

To provide a control document to record the pertinent changes to the Company Safety Statement, which become necessary due to the changing business environment.

To help identify training requirements that needs to be fulfilled in order to generate suitably qualified personnel to carry out the policies and procedures contained within the document.

To provide assurance that compliance with legal requirements for health and safety are being met or exceeded.

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1.3 COMPANY SAFETY STATEMENT

The general Statement on this page sets out the Safety Policy of ABC Company.

It is this Company's intention that its work will be carried out in accordance with:

- ✓ The relevant statutory provisions of the Safety, Health & Welfare at Work Act 2005
- ✓ The Safety, Health & Welfare at Work General Application Regulations 2007 (and all other regulations made under the 2005 Act that may be relevant to ABC Company)
- ✓ The Construction Regulations 2013

Where we are engaged on Domestic Works and we are not aware of a Project Supervisor being appointed, we will advise the Client under Regulation 6 of the 2013 Construction Regulations, of their duty to do so and will follow the directions of whoever is appointed as the Project supervisor.

All reasonable practicable measures will be taken to minimise risk to employees or others who may be affected by company activities.

ABC Company has appointed Manager 2 as having responsibility for managing Health, Safety & Welfare, on a day-to-day basis. Reference should be made to Manager 2, in the event of any difficulty arising in the implementation of this policy. Manager 2 will be supported by others as necessary to ensure that the provisions of this Safety Statement are implemented.

The Success of the policy will depend on the co-operation of all employees. It is therefore important that you acquaint yourself with all areas of the Safety Statement. You should ensure that you understand your role and the overall arrangements for Health & Safety within the Company and within your individual area. You should also be aware that you have an obligation to take care of your own safety and that of others that might be affected by your actions.

Signed: _____
Manager 2

Date: _____

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1.4 Policy Statement:

Manager 2 is committed to, protecting the Safety, Health and Welfare of all employees at work, avoiding product loss, preventing property damage and ensuring its processes will not damage the environment. All reasonable and practicable steps to protect members of the public who may be affected either directly or indirectly by its activities will be followed.

All reasonable and practicable steps shall be taken through occupational risk assessment to ensure that workplace conditions, practices and procedures are safe and in compliance with relevant safety, health and welfare legislation.

It is our policy when purchasing raw materials, making process alterations, altering (by approval) existing equipment or changing a system of work; to study each proposed change to ensure that it is safe in so far as reasonably practicable.

All employees shall be adequately trained, supervised and equipped to carry out their duties and responsibilities in a safe manner, with all operating procedures clearly outlined. All employees will have access to the company's safety statement and should ensure that they are familiar with its content.

Where necessary employees shall be provided with suitable protective clothing, equipment and training where hazards cannot be eliminated using all reasonable practicable steps.

Accidents/incidents reported shall be investigated by Manager 1 to determine the corrective action necessary to prevent recurrence.

This statement shall be revised as often as is necessitated by changes in legislation or the addition of new processes and equipment and all resources shall be provided to ensure its full implementation.

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The table below is a record of all revisions made to the safety Statement

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STRUCTURE FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY

PART 2

PREVIEW

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2.1 MANAGEMENT CONTROL SYSTEM

ABC Company are a company working in the area of General Tree Surgery and associated works.

The company operates an average of 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM however this is subject to change depending on customer needs.

The objective of the Safety Management System is to satisfy our legal responsibilities and to exercise greater control of health and safety within our organisation, to protect people and control the business.

Management points that may be measured:

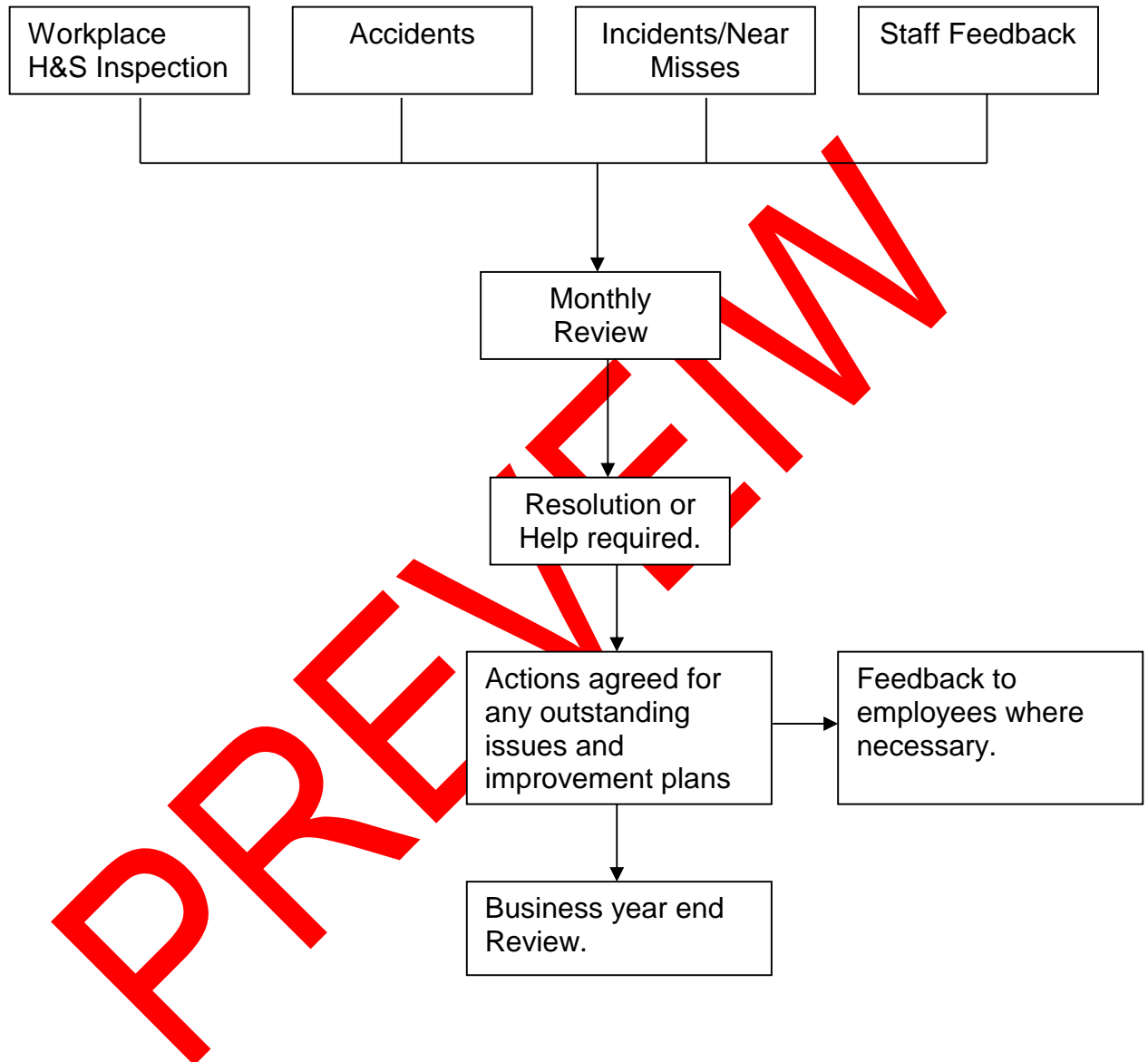
1. Workplace safety and housekeeping inspections
2. Staff suggestions and query forms
3. Induction and ongoing training
 - 3.1. First aid – as necessary
 - 3.2. Manual Handling – as necessary
 - 3.3. Safe Pass training
 - 3.4. Other Skills cards for Excavators, etc. as per need.
4. Safety critical equipment maintenance records
 - 4.1. Vehicles
 - 4.2. Fire extinguishers
5. Fire drill records
6. Risk assessments
 - 6.1. Initial assessments from xx/xx/xx
 - 6.2. Annual reviews after xx/xx/xx
7. Monthly Safety review
 - 7.1. Minutes
 - 7.2. Action points
 - 7.3. Outstanding issues resolved
8. Safety Statement
 - 8.1. Implementation after xx/xx/xx
 - 8.2. Annual reviews after xx/xx/xx
9. Annual report

Records of all of the above points will be held within a Safety Management Folder. This folder is maintained by Manager 1.

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Health and Safety Management process for ABC Company

Process flow below indicates how Health and Safety issues and procedures are handled.



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2.2 Manager 2

- ❑ Manager 2 will be responsible for implementation of the procedures within the Safety Statement.
- ❑ Manager 2 bears the ultimate responsibility for ensuring that staff are given correct information and training for them to do their job effectively.
- ❑ Manager 2 is also responsible for ensuring that staff reporting to him are supported in enabling them to reach the correct decisions in respect of health and safety matters.
- ❑ Supervise the Company Health and Safety programme.
- ❑ Review all safety rules bi-annually and, when necessary, recommend suitable changes.
- ❑ Investigate all major accidents and damage to Company property and recommend action.
- ❑ Ensure that accident records are maintained.
- ❑ Ensure that records of hazards/near miss reports are maintained.
- ❑ Ensure that the systems for ensuring that fire precautions are adequate.
- ❑ The Health, Safety, and Welfare of all employees are not compromised when all other performance standards are set.
- ❑ That adequate funding is reserved to meet regulatory needs of safety and health.
- ❑ That management will lead by example in adhering to stated policies to achieve the Company's aim to reduce accidents and health exposures.

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2.3 Site Foreman (if appointed)

- ❑ Regularly inspect the workplace to ensure that the programme is being complied with and make recommendations directly to all employees in matters concerning Health and Safety.
- ❑ Ensure the review of Health and safety on a monthly basis.
- ❑ Review the Staff suggestion and query forms weekly.
- ❑ Control Sub-contractor work on the premises. (when necessary)
- ❑ Supervise the Company Health and Safety programme.
- ❑ Get the assistance of all management in monitoring the effectiveness of the Company Safety Statement.
- ❑ Review all safety rules on a regular basis and, where necessary, recommend suitable changes.
- ❑ Assist in the induction and safety training of new employees.
- ❑ Inspect and maintain records of hazards/near miss reports.
- ❑ Monitor the systems for ensuring that fire precautions are adequate.

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2.4 SUPERVISORS (When appointed)

All supervisors will be responsible for planned implementation of effective health and safety standards within their area of operation.

Supervisors bear the responsibility for ensuring that staff are given correct information and training for them to do their job effectively and that their work targets are realistic and do not compromise health and safety requirements.

They are also responsible for ensuring that staff reporting to them are supported in enabling them to reach the correct decisions in respect of health and safety matters.

SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES OF ALL SUPERVISORS

- ❑ Ensure that all procedures are complied with for all new employees.
- ❑ Implement an efficient communication procedure so that all Personnel are aware of workplace standards as measured against the Company's Safety Policy and are provided with information on accidents and other safety, health and welfare information.
- ❑ Plan and co-ordinate safety training as necessary.
- ❑ Plan and supervise all work processes in a safe manner and in accordance with the standards set out in the Safety Statement.
- ❑ Ensure that all employees directly under your control are aware of their specific responsibilities.
- ❑ Provide assistance to staff in carrying out their responsibilities, particularly in determining the most appropriate order and methods of working.
- ❑ Where work is of a nature not normally carried out by the Company, then identify hazards and, if necessary, arrange for written instructions to be issued, regarding safety sequence, method of work and precaution to be taken, to the person in charge of the work.
- ❑ Allocate work in such a way that health and safety standards are not compromised.
- ❑ Know the location of the First Aid Box.
- ❑ Ensure that you know the procedure in the event of a fire.
- ❑ Report any accident or damage, however minor, to senior management.
- ❑ Commend Employees who by action or initiative eliminate hazards.

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2.5 All Employees

- ❑ All Employees are to co-operate with management in the wearing of the correct safety equipment, using the appropriate safety devices and following proper safe systems of work.
- ❑ All Employees are to co-operate in the investigation of accidents and the reporting of them and also the reporting to their supervisors of any local hazards of which they become aware.
- ❑ All Employees will be encouraged to promote ideas on the improvements of health and safety standards and also provide suitable suggestions for reduction in risks.
- ❑ All Employees are forbidden to interfere with or misuse any specified items of safety equipment or any safety device.
- ❑ All Employees are required to take care of their own health and safety and they should not indulge in horseplay, wilful unsafe acts or carry out or play practical jokes on other employees.
- ❑ Employees found guilty of wilful unsafe acts may be liable to summary dismissal.
- ❑ Employees are advised that strict requirements under the Health and Safety at Work Act can be used by the enforcing authorities against such persons if found guilty of reckless behaviour.
- ❑ All employees must clean up their working area or assist in tidying up thereof and also to help maintain clear passageways and maintain high standards of local housekeeping and hygiene.
- ❑ Do not smoke in designated "No Smoking" areas and dispose of spent matches, cigarette ends etc. properly.
- ❑ Know the location of the First Aid Box.
- ❑ Ensure that you know the procedure in the event of a fire.
- ❑ Report any accident or damage, however minor, to management.

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2.6 SUB CONTRACTORS (Generally only used if/when ABC Company engage sub-contractors on their behalf).

The following responsibilities are allocated to contractors to whom ABC Company assigns work on their behalf:

- All contractors must submit their Safety Policies and Insurances to ABC Company for approval prior to being awarded any works.
- All Contractors will be expected to prepare a Method Statement appropriate to the works they will be engaged in.
- Where Appropriate no contractor may be allowed to commence work on a client site prior to being issued a Permit to Work by the Client.
- All contractors will be expected to comply with the ABC Company Policy for Health, Safety and Welfare and must ensure that their own Company's policy is made available to the ABC Company and the Client whilst work is being carried out.
- All work must be carried out in accordance with relevant statutory provisions, the Company's Contractor's Rules and taking into account the safety of others on the Client site.
- All staff sent to work at a Client site by a contractor must have received appropriate health and safety training from their employer. They must also have access to relevant Risk Assessments and method statements as necessary.
- Scaffolding and other access equipment used by contractors' employees must be erected and maintained in accordance with Regulations and Codes of Practice.
- All plant and equipment brought onto site by contractors must be safe and in good working order, fitted with any necessary guards and safety devices and with any necessary certificates available for checking.
- No power tools or electrical equipment of greater voltage than 110 volts should be brought onto site. All transformers, generators, extension leads, plugs, and sockets must be suitable for industrial use and in good condition. If it is necessary to use equipment operating from a 240-volt supply, a residual current device with a rated tripping current of 30 mA and operating 30-m secs must be used.

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- Any injury sustained by a contractor's employee must be reported immediately to management at ABC Company and the Client's H&S Manager.
- Contractors must comply with any safety instructions given by ABC Company management.
- ABC Company must be notified of any material or substance brought onto the Client site which has health, fire, or explosive risks. Such materials must be stored and used in accordance with current recommendations.
- Contractors must take all reasonable steps to avoid interference by mobile plant.

PREVIEW

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ARRANGEMENTS FOR SAFE WORKING

PART 3

PREVIEW

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3.1 RESOURCES

ABC Company recognises that for the effective implementation of the safety procedures and policies laid down in this Safety Statement, adequate resources and funding must be made available.

ABC Company undertakes:

- To ensure that adequate numbers of suitably trained staff are available to undertake all work activities carried out by the company.
- To include health and safety considerations into all annual estimates for the running of the company.
- Undertake that in so far as is reasonably practicable resources shall be made available for any upgrading, maintenance, replacement and repair of facilities
- Undertake to provide resources for the ongoing monitoring of health and safety and for the provision of information and training of all staff in health and safety.

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3.2 SAFETY INDUCTION

This procedure will be carried out by ABC Company at the work place where the new employee will be required to work.

Apart from explaining to the new employee what he/she will be required to do and to whom he/she will be directly responsible the following points require highlighting:

1. Show new employee where the Safety Statement is kept, explain its purpose and ensure that the employee is aware of his/her responsibility.
2. Advise new employee of any potentially dangerous areas in the work place.
3. Warn new employee of any prohibited actions in the work place, e.g. operating machinery unless authorised to do so.
4. The training and instruction required for each individual must be considered. The Foreman will arrange for specific training to be given to an employee.
5. Show new employee the location of the First Aid Box and explain the procedure in the event of an accident, in particular the necessity to record accidents, however trivial they may appear at the time.
6. Demonstrate to the new employee the fire and evacuation procedure and assembly points.
7. Instruct the staff member in relation to any job specific risk assessments.

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3.3 TRAINING

HAZARDS

Inadequately trained staff are a hazard to themselves and their co-employees. ABC Company shall identify the training needs of their staff and ensure they are fulfilled.

It is the Policy of ABC Company that every employee will receive safety training on an ongoing basis. All new personnel will receive safety training as part of their induction. Staff training is not only concerned with imparting facts but also with notifying staff to face up to their responsibilities and to be equipped to deal with emergencies.

Training will include safety induction and safety awareness, manual handling training and First Aid training.

ABC Company will keep training records to include:

1. Name of the employee being trained.
2. Date of training.
3. Training details.
4. Signature of the trainer and employee to ensure that the training has been carried out, documented and understood.

Staff will be trained to spot and act on hazards and encouraged to consult with management on health and safety issues.

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3.4 SAFETY CONSULTATION

Section 13 of the 2005 Act places a general obligation on ABC Company as employer to consult with and to take account of any representations made by the employees for the purpose of giving effect to its statutory duties.

To facilitate consultation on issues relating to the individuals safety at work, the company operates a Suggestion or Query form.

A folder of blank forms is held in the company vans. Staff members complete a form as needed. The forms are reviewed on a weekly basis by Manager 1.

Manager 1 will seek more information as necessary from the relevant staff member and will then agree any actions arising from the Suggestions or Concerns if necessary.

3.4.1 SAFETY COMMITTEE

ABC Company have a Safety Committee on site. The members of the Safety Committee are Manager 1, Manager 2 and an Employee Representative. The committee meet on the first Monday of every month. The following is the agenda for each meeting:

- Review previous month's inspections.
- Review any reported accidents or incidents from the previous month.
- Review any suggestions or queries from staff.
- Plan a safety topic briefing for the coming month.
- Review any new safety guidelines/legislation that ABC Company have been made aware of.
- Post the minutes on the Staff Notice Board.

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3.5 SAFETY REPRESENTATION

In agreement with the 2005 Act the employees may select and appoint a person, to be called a Safety Representative, from their numbers at their place of work to represent them in consultations with ABC Company.

However, at the moment, it has not been necessary to elect a Safety Representative. As the company grows it is accepted that this position may change.

The rights of the Safety Representative include:

1. Information from the employer as necessary and particularly from the Safety Statement, to ensure the Safety Health and Welfare of employees.
2. To be informed by the employer of a visit by the H.S.A. Inspector.
3. Investigate accidents and dangerous occurrences provided it does not interfere with the performance of any statutory obligation required to be performed by any person.
4. Make representations to and receive advice from the H.S.A.
5. Carry out inspections and investigate hazards and complaints subject to agreement.
6. Accompany a H.S.A. Inspector on any visit except when this is for accident investigation.
7. Time off as may be reasonable to act as Safety Representative or to acquire the knowledge to carry out that function.

ABC Company will facilitate the Safety Representative in carrying out their functions as defined in the Act and as outlined above.

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3.6 FIRST AID

CONTROL MEASURES

The first aid box should be suitably marked and easily accessible.

The exact location of the First Aid box must be known by all employees and a specific notice, identifying its whereabouts, must be posted to include names of qualified First Aiders.

It is the company's policy that First Aiders shall be appointed who have certificates of qualifications in Occupational First Aid to ensure adequate cover for all activities.

The first aid boxes are suitably marked and easily accessible. The location is follows;

- ☐ Office
- ☐ Vehicles
- ☐ The First Aid Boxes is inspected on a weekly basis by the driver. This check and replenishment is recorded and kept on file.
- ☐ When employees are carrying out work at a Client premises, they shall seek the advice and assistance of the Client First Aider if necessary and if one is available.
- ☐ It should be noted that First Aiders are not empowered to dispense analgesics, pills, or medications. Supplies of such items will not be in first aid boxes. Individual employees who believe they might have a need of these items must be responsible for their own supplies.

First aiders

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The following contents are required in a first aid box:

- ❑ Card giving general first aid guidance.
- ❑ Individually wrapped sterile adhesive dressings.
- ❑ Sterile eye pads, with attachment, e.g. Standard Dressing No. 16 BPC.
- ❑ Triangular bandages (sterile).
- ❑ Safety pins.
- ❑ Blue Plasters
- ❑ A selection of Unmedicated wound dressings which should include:
 - ❑ Medium size sterile unmedicated dressings (approx. 10cm x 8cm, e.g. Standard Dressings Nos. 8 and 13 BPC).
 - ❑ Large size sterile unmedicated dressings (approx. 13cm x 9cm, e.g. Standard Dressings Nos. 9 and 14 BPC and the Ambulance Dressing No. 1).
 - ❑ Extra large sterile unmedicated dressing (approx. 28cm x 17.5cm, e.g. Ambulance Dressing No. 3).
- ❑ It is also recommended that a pair of latex gloves be included in each first aid kit for use by the first aider.

PROCEDURE & RECORD KEEPING

- ❑ In the event of an accident, a qualified first-aid person will be responsible for dispensing any first aid material.
- ❑ All issues of first aid consumables and the relevant treatment must be entered on the accident report form.
- ❑ The relevant trained first-aid person with Manager/Supervisor on duty will be responsible for completing the form.

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3.7 REPORTING OF ACCIDENTS, DISEASES AND DANGEROUS OCCURRENCES

All accidents and dangerous occurrences must be reported.

- ❑ Accident report Form
 - ❑ The accident report form must be completed for all accidents. Copies of this form are available from the Foreman.
- ❑ Health & Safety Authority
 - ❑ If an accident occurs either at the place of work or related to a place of work or work activity and causes loss of life to a person who is employed by the Company or disables any person for more than three days from performing his/her normal duties of employment, then written notice must be given to the Health and Safety Authority by Manager 1.
 - ❑ If the accident is fatal, then the scene of the accident must be left undisturbed for three days after notice has been given, other than for rescue purposes.

CONTROL MEASURES

- ❑ All Accidents, near misses and Dangerous Occurrences
 - ❑ Management, in consultation with the First Aid person, will decide upon the immediate action required in the event of an accident. A medical opinion should be sought in all but the most trivial of injuries.

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3.8 WELFARE FACILITIES

Full welfare facilities are available in the Main office.

When on a client site the following will apply:

- The Client's Site Management will ensure that adequate welfare facilities are provided on the premises for all personnel.
- Adequate toilet facilities shall be provided and maintained in a good clean hygienic condition.
- Adequate washing facilities and washing and drying materials/equipment shall be provided and maintained.
- Arrangements for eating foodstuffs shall be provided in the form of a canteen/tea room facility on the premises.
- An adequate supply of drinking water shall be provided on the premises.
- Adequate cloakroom facilities shall be provided for the storage of wet coats, etc. at the installation location.

This excludes works on a Domestic clients premises. In this case the facilities shall not be used without the express permission of the client.

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3.9 PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

ABC Company shall ensure that all employees use Personal Protective Equipment where required.

HAZARDS

- Physical Exposures
- Chemical Exposures
- Machine exposures

CONTROL MEASURES

All safety equipment purchased by the Company will be to approved standards.

ABC Company will ensure that adequate supplies of all the necessary protective clothing and equipment is available for issue as required and that when issued to employees, a signature is obtained for the equipment.

Management will inform any person in the workplace observed carrying out any procedures which require the use of protective clothing or equipment of both statutory and Company Policy requirements and such persons will be instructed not to continue working until protective clothing or equipment is obtained and used. This applies not only to all employees (including management) but also to contractors.

All PPE is signed for upon issue and replacement PPE may not be issued unless the damaged item has been returned for inspection.

3.10 PERMIT TO WORK SYSTEM

ABC Company Permits are not relevant on client site or in domestic premises.

ABC Company's staff will complete site permits as required by the Client's Safety Manager on larger contracts.

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3.11 SMOKING POLICY

The Public Health (Tobacco) (Amendment) Act 2004 became law on Monday 29th March 2004. This means that smoking will not be permitted in any enclosed workplace.

In order to comply with the above legislation and for other Safety and Health reasons, it is the policy of ABC Company that all of our work areas are smoke free. The Organisation recognises that all employees have a right to work in a smoke free environment. All staff have a legal obligation to comply with the legislation. Smoking is prohibited throughout the workplace with no exceptions. This policy applies to all employees, trainees, consultants, contractors, customers and visitors who enter the premises of ABC Company.

IMPLEMENTATION

The overall responsibility for the implementation of this policy rests with the occupier, manager or other person designated, for the time being, in charge of the workplace. All staff have an obligation to adhere to, and facilitate the implementation of this policy. The person in charge for the Client site is Client H&S Manager. He/She shall inform all existing employees, trainees, consultants and contractors of the policy and their role in its implementation. All new and prospective employees, consultants and contractors shall be given a copy of the policy on hiring, recruitment/induction by the person in charge.

INFRINGEMENTS

Infringements of the No Smoking policy will be dealt with, in the first instance, under employee disciplinary procedures. Employees, trainees, consultants, contractors, customers and visitors who contravene the law prohibiting smoking in the workplace are also liable to prosecution.

SMOKING CESSATION

Information on how to obtain help quitting smoking is available from the National Smokers Quitline on callsave 1850 201203 or the Health Promotion Department of local Health Boards.

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3.12 DRUGS AND ALCOHOL POLICY STATEMENT

ABC Company recognises that alcohol, drugs, or other substance abuse by individuals can have an adverse effect on their ability to perform work and consequently put themselves, the Company and others at significant risk.

All Employees, Contractors, Sub - Contractors and Visitors must be able to perform their duties whilst on company business, or when they are in Company premises/ work areas in such a manner that will not affect their safety or the safety of others by acts or omissions.

If the Company has reasonable grounds to suspect that an Employee or Contractor or Sub Contractor is under the influence of alcohol or drugs (illegal or misused legal substances), disciplinary action will be taken which may lead to dismissal of the individual concerned.

The possession, distribution or sale of drugs or any associated materials whilst you are on company property, company owned vehicles or other off site locations, will lead to disciplinary action being taken.

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3.13 Bullying at Work Policy

ABC Company recognises and accepts his responsibilities as an employer to provide a safe and healthy working environment for employees. As part of the policy of maintaining good employer practice, ABC Company wishes to clearly state that bullying of any kind will not be tolerated.

Bullying at work is defined as: 'Persistent criticism and personal abuse, both in public and in private which humiliates and demeans the individual, gradually eroding their sense of self.

Bullying can be best described as repeated inappropriate behaviour, whether verbal, physical, or otherwise, conducted by one or more persons against another or others, at the place of work and/or in the course of employment, which could reasonably be regarded as undermining the individual's right to dignity at work. An isolated incident of the behaviour described in this definition may be an affront to dignity at work, but as a once off incident is not considered to be bullying.

ABC Company will strive to ensure that all employees are free to perform, their work in an environment, which is free from threat, harassment and intimidation. All complaints of objectionable or offensive behaviour should be made to Manager 1 or the Safety Representative.

Manager 1 gives the undertaking that he will investigate all complaints sensitively and will resolve locally, if possible, the source and cause of the bullying behaviour. If the circumstances warrant it, the Company will not be deterred in invoking the formal disciplinary/grievance procedures.

All employees are invited to strive in ensuring that our working environment remains a pleasant and friendly atmosphere.

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3.14 Young persons and inexperienced workers policy

ABC Company does not employ Apprentices. ABC Company does not employ inexperienced workers. ABC Company do not offer work experience places to local schools, colleges, etc. All technical employees have trade qualifications and are experienced in their profession.

New employees who are experienced in their profession/trade receive in-house induction training and spend an agreed period of time working with experienced staff before being allowed to operate alone.

All workers on installation crews are subject to specific site inductions by the relevant site managers or safety managers.

Work crews are supervised at all times by an experienced foreman.

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HAZARD IDENTIFICATION AND CONTROL MEASURES

PART 4

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4.1 HAZARD INSPECTIONS

The management of the Company recognises that its activities and premises may present Health and Safety risks and shall identify the areas where control measures are required. Identification of hazards shall be undertaken at regular intervals and management shall take all practicable control measures to reduce the risks to its staff and visitors.

Hazards will be identified, risk assessments made and categorised as per our risk assessment formula.

HAZARD IDENTIFICATION AND RISK ASSESSMENT

- ❑ The policy of the Company is to identify hazards in the place of work and to assess the risk to Safety and Health and to control risks as far as is practicable so that they are reduced to an acceptable level.
- ❑ "Hazard" is taken to mean "any substance, article, material or practice, which has the potential to cause harm to the Safety, Health or Welfare of employees at work."
- ❑ "Risk" is taken to mean "the potential for the hazard to cause harm in the actual circumstances of use."
- ❑ Risk Assessment is based on the linking of the probability of occurrence with the severity of loss and/or injury. In this exercise, risks are graded "High," "Medium" or "Low" and numerically rated using the formula below. This is to help with the giving of priority to the employment of controls and the allocation of resources.

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The formula to be used for conducting risk assessments, assessing the risk from observed infringements/hazards or after an Audit, is shown here. Very minor injuries should score 1 while very serious ones will score higher, personal judgement is needed here. Likewise with the likelihood, 1 is very unlikely that anybody would be exposed to the hazard, while 7 means definite exposure to the hazard. Again personal judgement is needed.

Once the two scores are agreed they should be multiplied, thus giving a risk rating between 1 and 42.

Scores:

1-6 = Very Low risk

7-12 = Low Risk

13-18 = Low to Medium Risk

19-24 = Medium risk

25-30 = Medium to High Risk

31-36 = High Risk, stop the activity and implement immediate controls.

Over 36 = Very high Risk, stop the activity and implement immediate controls.

Risk Calculation Matrix

	How likely is an injury						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
How serious will the injury be	1						
	2						
	3						
	4						
	5						
	6						

Notes:

Hazards = Things that can cause an injury.

Risk = The likelihood of an injury happening.

Risk Control.

Control measures are intended to reduce the risk to an acceptable level.

Where practicable the Company commits itself to the elimination of hazards, whether that is by the provision of access arrangements, machine guarding or the provision of special tools etc.

This approach will take into account normal good practice within this sector of industry and the standards and guidelines where these are available.

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4.2 FIRE

FIRE HAZARDS

Fire and Emergency plan for the Client site will be followed by the ABC Company employees. However, in general, the fire safety arrangements for ABC Company are set out below.

RISK ASSESSMENT:

Likelihood	Severity	Risk Value
Score =	Score =	Result =

CONTROL MEASURES

A Fire Safety Programme shall be developed when appropriate by management to:

- (a) Guard against an outbreak of fire
- (b) Ensure as far as is reasonably practicable the safety of persons (including members of the public) on the premises in the event of an outbreak of fire.

The Fire Safety Programme shall incorporate arrangements for:

- (a) The prevention of an outbreak of fire through the establishment of day to day fire prevention practices.
- (b) The instruction and training of staff to familiarise them with fire and emergency evacuation procedures, fire call points and use of fire fighting equipment.
- (c) Taking part in client fire and evacuation drills.
- (d) The provision and maintenance of escape routes, free from obstruction and all exits unlocked and operational.
- (e) The provision of adequate fire protection equipment and systems.
- (f) The inspection and maintenance of the fire protection equipment systems.
- (g) The provision of assistance to the fire authorities.

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- (h) The maintenance of good housekeeping practice to ensure the removal of all combustible rubbish.
- (i) The testing and maintenance of portable heating appliances, and ensuring that all electrical equipment is switched off and unplugged when not in use.

4.2.1 FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT

The purpose of portable fire fighting equipment is as follows:

1. Extinguish incipient fires
2. Protect means of escape in case of fire
3. Protect employees and visitors
4. Protect property.

Portable Fire Extinguishers

Portable fire extinguishers will be provided in sufficient numbers to give adequate cover as per the advice of our Fire Protection Company.

Action in the event of fire

1. Clear everyone from the immediate vicinity of the fire except those actually authorised to engage in fire fighting.
2. Alert other staff in the immediate area of the fire. Contact the Fire Brigade, giving them the address clearly and any other directions necessary. Advise the Client Manager or Deputy pending arrival of the Fire Brigade.
3. If there is no danger by doing so, try to put out the fire with the apparatus provided, but remember our equipment will only be effective on a small fire - you must catch it before it gets hold.
4. Use the break glass fire alarm.
5. The manager of the area will order evacuation of the building as soon as it becomes apparent that the fire or smoke is spreading.
6. Employees should not delay their departure to collect personal belongings from another part of the building and should

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assemble at the designated assembly point so that they can be quickly accounted for.

7. Make sure that the building is cleared of employees and visitors. Close doors. See that no unauthorised person enters the building.

4.2.2 MEANS OF ESCAPE IN CASE OF FIRE

It is essential that escape routes be established, clearly identified and maintained available for use and that the protection afforded them is not impaired in the operation of the premises.

No person shall obstruct a means of escape. Fire exit routes and doors must never be obstructed.

4.2.3 FIRE DRILL

Staff will partake in Client fire drills as necessary.

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4.3 ACCESS AND EGRESS

HAZARDS

ABC Company staff will adhere to all rules regarding access and egress on the Client site. However, set out below are the general arrangements for the company.

Inadequate access and egress facilities can result in:

- Restriction of an orderly evacuation of the premises
- Trips and falls
- Obstruction of emergency exits

RISK ASSESSMENT:

Likelihood	Severity	Risk Value
Score =	Score =	Result =

CONTROL MEASURES

All gates and access points shall be kept clear and maintained.

All passageways shall be kept clear of obstruction.

All floor covering and surfaces shall be kept clean and in good condition.

Adequate lighting shall be provided at all entry, exit points and along corridor and passageways.

Waste shall be removed regularly and systematically stored in a secure place until collected for disposal.

It is vital that all fire escape routes are not obstructed at any time.

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4.4 HOUSEKEEPING

HAZARDS

Poor housekeeping can pose a wide variety of risks to health and safety.

- Trips: - Materials left lying in the open
- Slips: - On a greasy floors, slippery material strewn around
- Falls: - Use of materials for accessing higher work areas.
- Collisions: - Blockage of access aisles with materials
- Objects falling on people: - Improper stacking of materials
- Fire: - Inadequately and infrequent disposal of combustible rubbish.

RISK ASSESSMENT:

Likelihood	Severity	Risk Value
Score =	Score =	Result =

CONTROL MEASURES

Staff will ensure that access routes are planned, and storage is programmed to ensure that excess materials are not stored on site, storage areas are defined, staff/sub-contractors are made aware of the Company requirements with regard to storage, clearing up and tidiness.

Employees must maintain the workplace in a tidy condition at all times.

Supervisors will ensure that stacking areas are prepared and that materials are stored so as not to create difficulties.

Employees will ensure that all waste materials in and around the premises are cleared and disposed of safely.

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4.5 MANUAL HANDLING

Due to the nature of Tree Surgery, manual handling is a very large part of the job. For that reason staff should be trained and should use best practice at all times.

HAZARDS

- Incorrect method of lifting
- Attempting to lift something which is too heavy
- Lifting sharp/awkward shapes

The main injuries associated with manual handling and lifting are:

- Back strain, slipped disc.
- Hernias.
- Lacerations, crushing of hands or fingers.
- R.S.I.
- Bruised or broken toes or feet.
- Various sprains, strains, etc.

RISK ASSESSMENT:

Likelihood	Severity	Risk Value
Score =	Score =	Result =

CONTROL MEASURES

Loads which must be manually handled shall be assessed on the basis of their risk to health and safety and due caution exercised where there is a risk of back injury etc. The method of handling shall take account of the size, weight, shape, condition and position of the load to be handled.

Where possible measures shall be taken to reduce the amount of manual handling to a minimum and mechanical handling devices supplied and used in so far as is reasonably practicable.

All appropriate staff shall be trained in safe manual handling techniques.

Where loads have to be manually handled, safe access shall be assured.

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Precautions

1. Manual Lifting Procedure

1. The Lift

The key factors in safe lifting are:

- a) balance
- b) position of back
- c) positioning of the arms and body
- d) the hold

a) Balance

Since balance depends essentially upon the position of the feet, they should be apart about hip breadth with one foot advanced, giving full balance sideways and forward without tension.

In taking up this position, lifting is done by bending at the knees instead of the hips and the muscles that are brought into use are those of the thigh and not the back.

b) Position of the Back

Straight - not necessarily vertical

The spine must be kept rigid and straight, but not necessarily vertical. The spine can be kept straight if it is within 15 to 20 degrees from the vertical. This, coupled with a bent knee position, allows the centre line of gravity of the body to be over the weight, so reducing strain.

c) Position of the Arms and Body

The further the arms are away from the side, the greater the strain on the shoulders, chest and back. The elbow must at all times be close to the body, arms should be straight when carrying a load. One hand

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should be in advance of the other, whichever foot is placed forward, the same hand is extended, the other hand is kept close to the body. This position ensures that the elbows are into the sides. This coupled with the correct foot position ensures a safe and easy fit.

d) Arms close to the Body

The further the weight is away from the centre line of gravity of the lifter, the greater the strain. At all times get close to the weight and try to make it part of you.

e) The Hold

When grasping a weight, one often hears the phrase "get a good hold". A good hold means a grasp with the roots of the fingers, not just the tips, plus contact of the weight with the palm of the hand.

Never forget that size and build has no bearing upon the amount any one individual can lift. Everyone should know their own capabilities and should never attempt to exceed them. If in doubt get help, it is far better to be safe than sorry.

Besides these key factors, there are other important points to remember.

2. Centre Line of Gravity

It is essential that the weight of object and the centre line of gravity of the lifter should be as close as possible to one another. This reduces strain, discomfort and the likelihood of loss of balance during the course of the lift.

3. Testing the Weight

When in the initial position for the lift, the lifter should test the weight of the object to make sure it is within his capability and not too heavy for one man to lift. Many accidents happen when a person raises an object a few inches off the floor, realises it is too heavy and lets go.

4. The shape of the weight

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Note the shape of the object. It should be turned, if possible, so that the shortest measurement of rectangle is nearer to the centre line of gravity.

5. Movement.

The movement should be controlled and smooth. The weight should be kept close to the body.

Rhythm plays an important part in reducing tension and creating relation.

Before moving any loads, the job should be sized up and possible hazards moved or rectified.

An inspection of the load itself must be made to ensure that it can be moved without danger to the lifter or others.

The following check list can be usefully applied to all lifting jobs:

- if the load is heavy or too large for one person to handle, help should be obtained from a work-mate of similar physique
- jerking a load will add a little extra force, but it will also cause severe strain to the arm, back and shoulder
- even if a load is light in weight, it is dangerous to carry if it is large enough to obscure vision
- loads should not be pushed onto stacks above chest level. If a stack is this high, stand on a sturdy platform
- if the load to be lifted exceeds half the weight of the person lifting it, it is more than likely that the individual will lose his/her balance.

Note: if in doubt when lifting GET HELP.

TRAINING

Any employee whose job involves any manual handling shall be trained to allow him/her to carry this out safely. The extent of the training will depend on the type of lifting in which they are involved.

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4.6 ELECTRICITY

ABC Company' employees will adhere to the controls that are put in place by the safety manager for the Client site. Set out below are the general controls for the company.

HAZARDS

- Electric Shock
- Fire
- Trips or falls from loose cables

RISK ASSESSMENT:

Likelihood	Severity	Risk Value
Score =	Score =	Result =

CONTROL MEASURES

- Dangerous or defective cabling should be replaced or remedied in accordance with the E.T.C.I.'s rules.
- All new electrical installations and all extensions are tested and certified as safe, by a competent qualified electrician.
- Electrical installations are checked regularly by a competent qualified electrician.
- Testing, certifying and repairs are carried out in accordance with appropriate Electro Technical Council of Ireland (E.T.C.I.) standards.
- Enclosures/covers are in place to prevent contact with live electrical equipment/parts.
- Damaged extension leads are repaired or removed from use.
- Means of cutting off power to electrical installations and equipment e.g. fuses, trip switches, are provided and employees are aware of their locations.
- Work on live electrical equipment is avoided where reasonably practicable.
- Fire extinguishers that are suitable for fighting electrical fires are provided.
- All circuits supplying socket outlets are protected by a Residual Current Device (RCD).
- Operation of the RCD is tested regularly in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- Where electrical portable appliances are subject to ongoing wear and tear, they are inspected and tested.
- Any scorch marks associated with an electrical appliance or electrical wiring is checked urgently by a competent person.
- Flexible cables will also be adequately protected against external mechanical damage.

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- Flexible cables for portable equipment will be properly mechanically restrained within plugs and couplers.
- A record should be kept of each item of equipment so that maintenance can be scheduled and recorded.
- Where appropriate all equipment not in use to be switched off, especially at the end of a working, unless of a specialist type, e.g. servers, etc.
- Sufficient sockets shall be provided to prevent overloading by use of adapters.
- Proper plugs shall always be fitted to electrical appliances and flex firmly clamped.
- Frayed and damaged cables shall be replaced immediately.

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4.7 OFFICES

HAZARDS

- While office work may not be considered as a high-risk activity unsafe work systems and layout may result in injury or illness.

RISK ASSESSMENT:

Likelihood	Severity	Risk Value
Score =	Score =	Result =

CONTROL MEASURES

- This section is not applicable as ABC Company will not be maintaining an office on the Client site.

4.8 VISUAL DISPLAY UNITS (VDU'S)

HAZARDS

The main problems that may be associated with VDU's are as follows:

(a) Visual Discomfort

This recognises a contribution from a number of ocular problems:

- (1) long/short sight problems
- (2) glare
- (3) lighting
- (4) screen brightness
- (5) clarity of characters.

(b) Posture

Good adjustable seating is required and it is essential to consider ergonomic factors.

(c) Radiation

Radiation levels across virtually the whole of the electro-magnetic spectrum are below internationally accepted exposure limits when tested under extreme conditions, i.e. close to the screen.

(d) Stress

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The work at a VDU can be repetitive and monotonous. This is not exclusive to VDU users as mental stress is associated with all types of work.

On the basis of available evidence, the 'health hazards' associated with VDU's are largely exaggerated in the sense that they are unlikely to cause irreversible long term damage as opposed to varying degrees of discomfort.

Risk Assessment:

Likelihood	Severity	Risk Value
Score =	Score =	Result =

CONTROL MEASURES

- ❑ Each workstation shall be assessed to ensure the individual's health is not likely to be put at risk.
 - ❑ The Display Screen Assessment sheet in the appendix shall be used for this purpose.
 - ❑ Be sure that VDU screens meet the appropriate criteria for performance, brilliance, character design, etc.
 - ❑ The intensity of the beam, the brightness of the dots against the background and their time persistence are the most important determinants of operator 'safety'.
 - ❑ This underlines the importance of keeping VDU's in good condition.
 - ❑ It is important that chairs are correctly selected and used and that their siting is at an optimum distance from the machine.
 - ❑ Lighting, ventilation and temperature must be carefully controlled to provide satisfactory environmental conditions.
 - ❑ There should be a restriction on continuous use:
 - ❑ Over two hours with pauses of between 5-10 minutes before further use.
 - ❑ In this respect, short, frequent intervals are more beneficial than infrequent long breaks.
 - ❑ The total time of continuous work at a VDU should be restricted to 6 hours per day.
 - ❑ Vision should be tested before operating a VDU and at yearly intervals, or earlier if symptoms are experienced. Spectacle wearers should consult their optician.
 - ❑ Epileptics should see a medical adviser before starting work.
- If there is any untoward incidence of VDU related problems medical advice must be sought.

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4.9 HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

HAZARDS

Health hazards from substances can be divided into the following categories:

- ❑ External contact - corrosive, skin absorption, dermatitis.
- ❑ Inhalation - gases, fumes, vapours.
- ❑ Ingestion - swallowing.

RISK ASSESSMENT:

Likelihood	Severity	Risk Value
Score =	Score =	Result =

CONTROL MEASURES

- ❑ Only Fungicides and weed killers from an approved source and that are on open sale will be used by ABC Company.
- ❑ At all times the directions on the labels shall be followed and staff will be provided with the necessary protective equipment.
- ❑ The Workplace Supervisor will ensure that:
- ❑ All other substances are listed in a safety file.
- ❑ All substances have an up to date Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) on file.
- ❑ The control measures listed in the MSDS are followed.
- ❑ A written assessment, control measures and other information are on site.
- ❑ All substances are stored in an appropriate unit that is fire retardant and can contain spillages.
- ❑ Procedures planned to handle or use any hazardous substance or process are carried out fully.
- ❑ Any, equipment, hygiene measures or protective clothing are provided and maintained as required.

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- ❑ Any necessary air sampling, medical examinations, testing, etc. will be carried out as required and records will be kept on the premises.
- ❑ All measures necessary to protect other workers and the general public from any substance hazardous to health will be provided and maintained.

4.9.1 Weedkillers and Fungicides

ABC Company recognises the fact that Fungicides and Weed Killers are Hazardous substances. Manager 1 will ensure that the written assessment, control measures and other information is on site and that all procedures planned to handle or use any Fungicide or hazardous substance or process are carried out fully and that, any equipment, hygiene measures or protective clothing are provided and maintained as required.

All measures necessary to protect other workers and the general public from any substance hazardous to health will be provided and maintained.

Exposure to Fungicides and Weed Killers can be reduced to acceptable levels if precautions are taken in the following areas:

- ❑ Handling
- ❑ Storage
- ❑ Transportation
- ❑ Use of correct protective clothing
- ❑ Correct disposal of empty Fungicide containers.

If any person handling the materials shows the symptoms, which may possibly have been caused by exposure to chemical products, they should be removed from the area and medical advice sought without delay.

Correct handling of Fungicides and weed killers.

Authorised personnel may only handle Fungicides and Weed Killers.

The material Safety Data Sheets, container labels and detailed health and safety information must be consulted before use.

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To decrease the risks involved with the handling of Fungicides and Weed Killers the following precautions must be taken.

- Eating and drinking in the vicinity of Fungicides and Weed Killers is prohibited.
- Where possible Fungicides and Weed Killers should be purchased so as minimal measuring out is required this will reduce the possibility of spillage.
- Open one container at a time.
- When adding concentrate, pour slowly and allow air to enter the container to avoid glugging and splashing.
- Exclusion notices must be displayed when applying Fungicides and Weed Killers to an area. The area should subsequently be marked off to designate that spray has been applied.

Fungicide and Weed Killer Storage

Fungicides and Weed Killers must be stored on their own in a safe place access to which is limited to only the necessary people.

The store must conform to the following criteria:

- It should be easily locked secure.
- The storage facility should be ventilated and frost proof
- The store should be adequate for the maximum quantity of Fungicide required at any one time without the need for stacking of containers.
- A supply of absorbent material must be available to mop up spillages. Spillages must never be flushed as this can expose the eyes to splashes and spread the contamination to other areas.
- The store should be located as to provide access and in the event of a fire. Floors must be impermeable to liquids and be anti-slip.
- The store must be marked with an appropriate warning sign to highlight the dangers involved in the area.
- A water supply must be available in the area outside the store.
- An area that allows separate storage of protective clothing and personal clothing must be provided.
- Wash facilities should be convenient to this area.
- A Fungicide stock sheet that describes the contents and Quantities of chemicals should be available. This should be updated as chemicals are applied and as additional chemicals are purchased. The list must not be kept in the chemical

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store. This can exist as a tractability record and as a record of application. It can also provide the emergency services with valuable information in the event of fire or poisoning.

Protective Clothing

Protective clothing must always be worn when handling Fungicides and Weed Killers. Contamination risks are highest when handling concentrates. The tasks of mixing, measuring and filling are high-risk activities and therefore extreme caution should be exercised and protective clothing is of paramount importance.

When applying spray always wear protective clothing. This should constitute

- Waterproof boots and trouser /leggings
- Suitable mask
- Sprayers should be regularly serviced to prevent exposure due to leaking sprayheads etc.
- After use wash all protective clothing.
- Store all protective clothing in clean, ventilated press away from the chemical store

Disposal of empty Chemical Containers

- All empty containers must be triple washed – Part fill 10 – 20 % with water, secure cap and shake.
- Add the rinsings to the sprayer
- Puncture or crush empty containers and store in a suitable plastic sealed bag
- Part used containers must be returned to the store until further use.
- All options must be explored in the disposal of chemical containers and the safest available option at that time must be utilised.

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4.10 General Grounds work

Note: All site work is subject to individual assessment and the production of a method statement to cover the tasks and activities of the specific job.

HAZARDS

- Multi hazard

RISK ASSESSMENT: As per individual assessments

To ensure that the activities of the staff does not create a hazard.

CONTROL MEASURES

- All employees will be fully qualified in their areas of expertise.
- Copies of the qualifications will be kept on file.
- All employees will hold skills cards as appropriate.
- Areas of exclusion will be set up to ensure no accidents may happen to third parties.
- All portable tools shall be battery operated or 110V only.
- Housekeeping practices will ensure that all areas are kept clean during the working day and the area will be left clear at the end of the working day.
- Where it is necessary to leave work unfinished at the end of a working day, relevant signage and/or barriers will be put in place.
- ABC Company employees do not engage in general electrical work.
- Work areas and machinery will be kept clean and tidy at all times.
- Work areas will be subject to the H&S inspections.
- Personal Protective Equipment comprised of Gloves, Knee Pads, Masks, Safety Boots and Hi Viz will be worn as relevant for the particular type of hazard.

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4.11 Scaffold (occasional use for prolonged access)

Hazards

- Collapse of scaffold leading to personal injury
- Falls from heights
- Personal injury from falling materials

Person at risk:

Employees / Sub-Contractors / Visitors / Others

RISK ASSESSMENT:

Likelihood	Severity	Risk Value
Score =	Score =	Result =

CONTROL MEASURES

- Scaffold must be erected / altered / dismantled by a competent trained person.
- This person must hold a valid up to date CSCS ticket.
- Adequate signage or a Scaffold tag system must be in place, informing people of the condition of the scaffold e.g. 'Safe to use' OR 'Scaffold incomplete do not use'.
- Scaffold must be inspected every 7 days and the statutory form must be filled out after each inspection and kept in the Safety File.
- Scaffold must also be inspected after any adverse weather conditions and the statutory form must be filled out and kept in the Safety File.
- It is a criminal offence for anyone who does not hold a CSCS scaffold ticket to alter / dismantle / erect scaffold.
- If scaffold is sub contracted out then the company erecting the scaffold must supply the statutory form once completed to the required standards and inspected on a weekly basis.

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4.12 Company Vehicles – General Points

Risks Identified: Medium

- Personal Injury from inadequate maintenance / Checks on Company Vehicles
- Damage to property from inadequate maintenance / Checks on vehicles
- Road Traffic Accidents

Person at risk:

Employees / Sub-Contractors / Visitors / Others

Use of company vehicles

Five main hazards are addressed under the risk assessment: Road Traffic Accident, Refuelling, Wheel Change, Mobile Phones and Maintenance.

HAZARDS

1. Road Traffic Accident – Injury due to collision

RISK ASSESSMENT:

Likelihood	Severity	Risk Value
Score =	Score =	Result =

CONTROL MEASURES

Only suitably qualified and insured employees may operate company vehicles.

They must always be driven within the rules of the road and the law.

They must have a recorded and scheduled programme of maintenance, and must hold DOE certificates as necessary.

No hitchhikers may be picked up at any time.

Any breach of Road Traffic Acts will be treated with the utmost severity.

2. Refuelling.

RISK ASSESSMENT:

Likelihood	Severity	Risk Value
Score =	Score =	Result =

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CONTROL MEASURES

All refuelling is carried out by people over 18 years of age.
Refuelling is only carried out in open air such as garage forecourts.
Fire extinguishers are always present on the forecourts.

3. Wheel Change – Cuts, Bruises, MH injury, traffic passing by.

RISK ASSESSMENT:

Likelihood	Severity	Risk Value
Score =	Score =	Result =

CONTROL MEASURES

Company owner vehicles are issued with full wheel changing kits. Kit includes the jack, screwdriver, spare wheel and tyre iron. The reflective jacket, torch and red triangle are supplied by the company.

All of this equipment is to be properly maintained by the vehicle drivers.

If a puncture occurs and a wheel change is needed do the following:

- Turn on hazard lights
- Pull in to the left-hand side of the road when safe to do so
- Get out of the vehicle and go to the boot
- Place the red triangle approx. 30 feet from the vehicle
- It is imperative that the yellow jacket is worn even in broad daylight
- If the puncture is on the left hand side of the vehicle proceed to change the tyre taking great care with regard to manual handling
- If the puncture is on the right hand side of the vehicle try to angle the car slightly to give protection from oncoming traffic
- When the wheel has been changed replace all equipment back in the vehicle in their original storage places

Have the puncture repaired as soon as possible, especially if the spare is a temporary wheel

4. Mobile phones – road traffic accident

RISK ASSESSMENT:

Likelihood	Severity	Risk Value
Score =	Score =	Result =

CONTROL MEASURES

At no time is it permitted to drive the vehicle while holding a mobile phone or receiving / sending text messages

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LOGO HERE

ABC Company

Safety Statement

Training / instruction must be given to staff on the dangers of using a mobile phone while operating a vehicle

5. Vehicle Maintenance (company owned) – RTA due to poor maintenance

RISK ASSESSMENT:

Likelihood	Severity	Risk Value
Score =	Score =	Result =

CONTROL MEASURES

Maintenance / service in place.

A bi-monthly Health & Safety Vehicle Review will be made on the van and a record kept in the Health & Safety folder

Staff will occasionally be requested to carry out an assessment on the van.

Vehicle to include the following:

- Current Vehicle Service Record
- Fire Extinguisher
- Torch
- Reflective Jacket
- Bin for litter
- Warning Triangle
- Emergency Breakdown/Accident phone number
- First Aid Kit Accident number

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4.13 Lifting operations (Unloading deliveries, flat bed trucks, etc.)

Hazards

- Falling materials
- Collapsing crane

Person at risk:

Employees / Sub-Contractors / Visitors / Others

RISK ASSESSMENT:

Likelihood	Severity	Risk Value
Score =	Score =	Result =

CONTROL MEASURES

- Assessment of all lifting operations detailing the specific risks and relevant control measures will be agreed for each lift.
- General points to be observed in addition to the Method statements are
 - ABC Company staff do not operate cranes.
 - ABC Company staff that hold appropriate skills cards may use Teleporters under the direction of a banksman where necessary.
 - Safe working area to be enforced.
 - Only certified plant and equipment to be used.
 - Use of experienced and certified operators.
 - Tool box talks and site induction on works undertaken.
 - PPE to be worn at all times.

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4.14 Groundwork and Buried Services

Hazards

- Trench collapse
- Falling into trenches
- Gas explosion
- Electrocution
- Undermining structures

Person at risk:

Employees / Sub-Contractors / Visitors / Others

RISK ASSESSMENT:

Likelihood	Severity	Risk Value
Score =	Score =	Result =

CONTROL MEASURES

- Site will be surveyed as per drawings (if available) to ascertain exact location of any buried services.
- All services shall be clearly marked.
- Hand digging shall be used in the vicinity of any services
- Trenches shall be battered back where ground conditions require.
- Excavations over 1 meter shall be supported by timbers or trench boxes.
- All vehicles, plant and equipment will be kept back a safe distance from any trench.
- Good secure ladders shall be provided where appropriate.
- All excavations shall be fenced off to prevent unauthorized access.
- The services of a surveyor shall be sought where necessary.

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4.15 On site fuelling

Hazards

- Fire
- Fuel spill

Person at risk:

Employees / Sub-Contractors / Visitors / Others

RISK ASSESSMENT:

Likelihood	Severity	Risk Value
Score =	Score =	Result =

CONTROL MEASURES

- Only approved containers to be used for fuel.
- Spill kits for fuel to be on hand.
- Fire extinguisher suitable to the risk and any nearby combustibles to be on hand.
- Fuel only to be pumped from approved containers.
- All road going bowzers shall be internally banded.
- All road going bowzers shall be subject to periodic maintenance.
- Fuel Bowzers are never to be lifted on uneven ground.
- No smoking or naked flame in the vicinity of refuelling.

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4.16 Overhead lines

Hazards

- Electrocution
- Undermining pylon structures

Person at risk:

Employees / Sub-Contractors / Visitors / Others

RISK ASSESSMENT:

Likelihood	Severity	Risk Value
Score =	Score =	Result =

CONTROL MEASURES

- All overhead lines shall be marked with goal posts and bunting where possible.
- All tree workers will be fully trained in how to work in proximity to overhead lines.
- Method statement for all work in the vicinity of overhead lines shall be drawn up.
- In very extreme circumstances it may be necessary to have the overhead lines powered down (de-energised)

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4.17 Company work vehicles/machines (Machines are generally rented as necessary, controls below shall be implemented as appropriate).

Hazards

- Personal Injury from inadequate maintenance / Checks on Company Vehicles
- Damage to property from inadequate maintenance / Checks on vehicles

Person at risk:

Employees / Sub-Contractors / Visitors / Others

Tractors and other equipment

HAZARDS

1. Overturning causing entrapment beneath the tractor
2. Persons being run over/struck by tractor
3. Loose clothing catching in drive shaft
4. Jumping from a tractor while still in motion.
5. Excess speeding in confined areas.
6. unauthorised/Inexperienced personnel having access to tractors and associated machinery

RISK ASSESSMENT:

Likelihood	Severity	Risk Value
Score =	Score =	Result =

CONTROL MEASURES

All tractors and other equipment should be fully roadworthy

Tractor and other equipment drivers being responsible for the up-keep of all aspects of the tractor, e.g. damaged seats should not be allowed to deteriorate to the point where possible injury could result.

Tractor and other equipment drivers must on no account carry passengers on their vehicles unless that such vehicles are suitably modified with appropriate secondary seating etc.

All parts and working gear of vehicles fitted with forks or any other attachments for stacking, loading or unloading goods must be thoroughly examined every six months

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Keys must be removed from the Tractor and other equipment when not in use.

Guards should be over drive shafts at all times

Training of drivers

Drivers will be trained on each type of vehicle they are required to drive

Other Vehicles List:

- Mini diggers
- 360 excavators
- Bull dozer
- Etc.

RISK ASSESSMENT:

Likelihood	Severity	Risk Value
Score =	Score =	Result =

CONTROL MEASURES

- Safety cut-outs on all equipment.
- Only trained staff may use lawnmowers.
- All blades shall be kept sharp to ensure smooth cutting.
- Staff will not carry out any general maintenance on vehicles.
- Monthly Vehicle Inspection Sheets must be used and stored in Company vehicle and returned to office for inspection at the end of every month.
- All equipment subject to a planned schedule of maintenance.
- All equipment shall be subject to the statutory maintenance checks as per the construction regulations.
- Employees have a legal duty to report any known defects.
- Only those with relevant skills cards may operate machinery
- Any lifting equipment is inspected at statutory intervals as per our insurance company recommended inspector and the 2006 regulations.
- Wind is always assessed before carrying out lifting.
- Operator to make sure there are no obstructions.
- Keys are never left in vehicles.
- All vehicles will be secured at night to prevent unauthorized access.

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4.18 Chainsaws and Heavy cutting

Hazards
Amputation

RISK ASSESSMENT:

Likelihood	Severity	Risk Value
Score =	Score =	Result =

Control Measures

NB – All staff who use Chainsaws must be certified by Teagasc, Coillte or an approved body. General guidelines from the HSA will also be followed. This section of the Safety Statement summarises the controls.

The following general controls shall apply once training has been given.

The following PPE will be worn:

- Safety helmet (complying with EN 397).
- Eye protection (mesh visor complying with EN 1731 or safety glasses to EN 166). Hearing protection (complying with EN 352).
- Gloves with protective guarding on the back of the left hand (complying with EN 381-7).
- Leg protection incorporating chain-clogging material (complying with EN 381-5).
- Protective boots with good grip and protective guarding at front vamp and instep (complying with EN 345-2).
- Non-slag outer clothing. The use of high-visibility clothing may also be appropriate.

Only use a chainsaw if:

- the stop switch works and is clearly marked;
- the front hand guard/chain brake, chain catcher and antivibration mounts are undamaged and functional;
- the throttle opens only when the throttle lock is depressed; it is fitted with a chain type recommended by the manufacturer and is designed to reduce kickback, which is the uncontrolled upward and/or backward motion of the guide bar. It happens when the nose of the guide bar contacts an object such as a log or branch or when the wood pinches the saw chain in the cut (see Figure 1);
- the exhaust system and silencer are in good order;

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- there is a mandatory hearing protection symbol on the chainsaw.

Preparing for the Work:

- Operators should not normally work alone.
- Ensure that a risk assessment has been carried out and the significant findings recorded. Make sure all workers involved in any operation on the worksite are made aware of and comply with the controls identified.
- Agree a safe method of operation for the work to be done
- Ensure that a designated and responsible person knows the daily work programme and agree with them a suitable emergency procedure.

In case of emergency, be able to provide the emergency services with adequate information.

PREVENTION

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4.19 Secateurs and Small tools

HAZARDS

Sharp edges
Pinch points

RISK ASSESSMENT:

Likelihood	Severity	Risk Value
Score =	Score =	Result =

CONTROL MEASURES

- The work area shall be adequately lit.
- All surfaces shall be kept clear of slip and fall hazards.
- All working surfaces shall be undamaged, clean and free from grease.
- First Aid facilities shall be made available and maintained.
- Ensure the safety catch on Secateurs is intact.
- All Secateurs shall be maintained in a sharp condition.
- Where necessary staff will be issued with protective gloves.
- All cutting must be done away from the body.
- Staff are not permitted to run while carrying sharp implements
- Hang up or put away spades, forks, hoes and rakes after use to avoid stepping on them or causing trip hazards, etc.
- Never carry tools in your pocket.
- Roll up hoses properly after use so they don't become tripping hazards.
- If using hatchets, axes, etc:
 - Wear steel-toed boots, heavy gloves, tight-fitting clothing and safety glasses.
 - Make sure the blade is sharp. Dull blades are more dangerous.
 - Chop so that the arc of your swing won't end up coming back in the direction of your body.

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4.20 Chipper

HAZARDS

Entanglement
Amputation
Fuel

RISK ASSESSMENT:

Likelihood	Severity	Risk Value
Score =	Score =	Result =

CONTROL MEASURES

- General control points for machinery assessment to be followed.
- All machines must be operated in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- All refuelling must be carried out as per previous assessment.
- All defects must be reported to manager 2.
- Machines may not be used if defects are significant.
- Emergency stop/bar and/or safety cut outs to be tested before use.
- Goggles must be worn during use.
- Gloves must be worn during use.
- Machine may only be operated by two members of staff.
- Machine must be set up on solid ground and warning signs erected.
- Chipper must be parked in close proximity to the tree cutting area and must be segregated from passers by. Ejector chute must be faced away from any passersby or roadways
- Before use, inspect the chipper hood for missing pins or cracked, worn hinges. Ensure the hood is properly latched closed and completely covers the knives. Start the chipper at the lowest speed and listen for sounds of loose or broken parts. The knives should come to a complete stop before opening the chipper hood.
- When operating a chipper, wear close-fitting clothing, cuff-less gloves, cuff-less trousers, and safety boots with non-skid soles. Tie back your hair, take off jewelry, and keep your clothing tucked in. Keep your hands and feet outside the hopper at all times. Know what your co-workers are doing and where they are.
- Keep the work area around the chipper clear and free from tripping hazards to avoid falls into the hopper. Rake up small

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debris like twigs and leaves and place them directly into the trailer or a bag for disposal.

- If the machine jams; DO NOT reach into the hopper. Stop the machine and only attempt to clear the jam when it is isolated and the knives have stopped rotating.
- Feed the trunk or "butt end" of branches into the hopper first. Always lay short branches on top of longer branches, or use a long branch to push materials into the hopper. Never reach into the feed area to push small debris into the hopper.
- Remove the engine start key if the machine is to be left unattended for any period of time.

PREVIEW

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4.21 Insects and Allergies

DESCRIPTION

Dealing with insects.

RISK ASSESSMENT:

Likelihood	Severity	Risk Value
Score =	Score =	Result =

CONTROL MEASURES

Tips for avoiding insect stings

Bees and wasps rarely sting unless they are aggravated.

Avoid perfume, cologne or scented soaps if you are going into an area where there are likely to be bees or wasps.

Bees and wasps are attracted to brightly coloured, patterned clothing. Insect repellent doesn't work on stinging insects. It might even attract them.

Stay calm if a bee lands on you. It will eventually leave of its own accord. If you don't want to wait for it to leave, slowly and gently brush it away.

If you are stung

If you are stung in the mouth or nose, get immediate medical help as swelling could block airways.

Remove the stinger without squeezing the bag of venom. Gently scrape it out using a blunt object such as a credit card or scraper. The sooner you can remove it, the better.

Prevent infection: wash the affected area carefully with soap and water and keep it clean until it is completely healed.

Applying a preparation Savlon may provide relief from pain and swelling. Reduce swelling by applying a cold pack or an ice pack wrapped in a cloth

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4.22 General outdoors safety

HAZARDS

Sun
Rain
Ice
Etc.

RISK ASSESSMENT:

Likelihood	Severity	Risk Value
Score =	Score =	Result =

CONTROL MEASURES AND ADVICE

- Wear warm or waterproof clothing in poor weather.
- Be aware of possibility of ice.
- Protect yourself from too much sun.
- Wear a hat and light-coloured long-sleeved shirts and trousers.
- Put on sunscreen before going out and re-apply it often.
- Wear sunglasses to protect your eyes.
- Stay cool in the heat.
- Wear 'breathable' cotton fabrics.
- Drink LOTS of fluids; at least a cup every half hour when it's really hot.
- Alternate between water and sports drinks (isotonic fluids).
- Avoid alcohol and caffeine – they dry you out.

Pay attention to signs of heat exhaustion – Nausea, Dizziness, Headache, Blurred vision, Cold/wet (clammy) greyish skin or disorientation.

Watch for signs of heat stroke

Chills, Irritability and restlessness, Convulsions or rapid shallow breathing, Disorientation or euphoria, Red face and skin, Dry skin, Fainting.

Get help if you think you have heat exhaustion or stroke.

- Get medical help.
- Get out of the heat.
- Lie on your back with your feet up.
- Cool down with the help of wet cloths, alcohol wipes or immersion into tepid water.
- Replenish fluids; drink water and sport drinks (isotonic fluids).
- Get rest. Recovery may take days.

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4.23 Spraying Activities

HAZARDS

Chemicals

RISK ASSESSMENT:

Likelihood	Severity	Risk Value
Score =	Score =	Result =

CONTROL MEASURES

- All controls as per earlier assessment on hazardous substances to be followed.
- Only trained staff may use the sprayers whether they are knapsacks or vehicle mounted.
- Where possible spray staff will attend the Teagasc or other approved body's spray training program.
- Before using, always inspect the backpack Fungicide sprayer tank for damage or defects and make sure sprayer hoses, regulator, wand, and nozzle(s) are clean and functioning properly. Pay particular attention for leaks from the sprayer and attachments.
- Always wear appropriate personal protection equipment, including eye protection, chemical-resistant gloves, and coveralls and when necessary, chemical-resistant clothing and a respirator.
- Follow instructions on the substance label when mixing substances for use in a backpack sprayer.
- Pour the Fungicide mixture through the filter basket when loading the backpack sprayer tank.
- Due to the weight of a loaded backpack spray, be careful when walking or bending. Look where you are stepping and always bend at the knees.
- Due to their inherent hazardous nature, never use flammable liquids, acids, or caustic chemicals such as bleach in a backpack sprayer.
- Relieve sprayer tank pressure through the shut-off valve and spray wand before adjusting the pressure regulation valve or control knob.
- Apply Fungicides at the rates recommended by the manufacturer.
- Never point the spray wand in the direction of people or animals.
- Spray tanks, hoses, regulator, wand, and nozzle(s) shall be rinsed thoroughly after each use. Rinsate (and Fungicide containers) shall be disposed of properly.

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4.24 Brush Cutters

HAZARDS

Entanglement
Amputation
Physical injury
Fire and/or fuel spill

RISK ASSESSMENT:

Likelihood	Severity	Risk Value
Score =	Score =	Result =

CONTROL MEASURES

These are a summary of the more important control measures. Full safety controls are shown in the Manufacturers instruction manual. As each model of cutter is unique, the manual must always be consulted.

- Only staff familiar with the equipment may operate it.
- Manufacturer's instructions from manual to be followed.
- Non standard attachments may not be fitted to this machine. Only attachment as supplied by the manufacturer may be used. This is especially the case with regard to the "Flail" type chain attachments.
- Report all defects and never modify or bypass controls.
- Refuelling to be carried out as per earlier assessment.
- All loose clothing to be removed, clothing should be snug and not easily caught in the machine.
- Safety boots, ear defenders and Goggles or face guard to be worn.
- Before use the following must be checked:
 - Spark plug boot secure
 - Cutting head or attachment secure
 - No fuel leaks
 - Cutter guard/deflector head secure
- Area to be fully segregated from by-passers.
- Exclusion area of 15 metres to be maintained as loose debris such as stones can be flung quite a distance by the rotating head.
- Always hold the machine with both hands and move in a smooth manner.

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- Be aware of the environment as the wearing of ear defenders can cut out calls or shouts in the vicinity.
- Take special care in slippery conditions – damp, snow, ice, on slopes or uneven ground.
- Watch out for obstacles: Roots, tree stumps or holes which could cause you to trip or stumble.
- Make sure you always have good balance and secure footing.
- To reduce the risk of serious or fatal injury from breathing toxic fumes, ensure proper ventilation when working in trenches, hollows or other confined locations.
- To reduce the risk of accidents, stop work immediately in the event of nausea, headache, visual disturbances (e.g. reduced field of vision), problems with hearing, dizziness, deterioration in ability to concentrate. Apart from other possibilities, these symptoms may be caused by an excessively high concentration of exhaust gases in the work area.
- Operate your power tool so that it produces a minimum of noise and emissions – do not run the engine unnecessarily, accelerate the engine only for cutting.
- When attaching and using Mowing Heads, Brush Knife, Shredder Saw, Circular Saw or Metal Cutters refer to the manual and ensure that all parts are secure.

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4.25 General Health Hazards

Hazards

- Weils
- Lyme
- Tetanus
- Aspergillus Fumigatus

RISK ASSESSMENT:

Likelihood	Severity	Risk Value
Score =	Score =	Result =

CONTROL MEASURES

General Information:

Weil's disease (Leptospirosis)

Water in ditches, slow moving rivers and ponds may contain rat urine capable of causing this life-threatening disease. Infection arises through cuts, abrasions and through the eyes and the lining of the nose and mouth. Always wash your hands before eating, drinking or smoking. Cover cuts and broken skin with waterproof plasters. If you are working with parts of your body immersed in water wear waterproof protective clothing. Never touch dead rodents with bare hands.

Weil's disease starts as a feverish illness with a high temperature and headache. At this stage it can easily be controlled with antibiotics, so contact your GP straight away. Carry a leptospirosis medical contact card to alert others to the possible nature of your illness.

Lyme disease

This disease is spread by bites from infected ticks. The earliest sign may be a faint ring-shaped rash. Often you may not notice this and only become aware of the illness when you start to experience intermittent flu-like symptoms. At this stage the infection responds well to antibiotics but if left untreated may result in serious illness. The best defence is to keep your skin covered – especially your legs. Check your skin and clothing frequently. Carefully remove any ticks and place a small dressing over the bite. The sooner the ticks are removed the less likely you will be infected.

If you are worried about possible infection contact your GP.

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Tetanus

The organism causing tetanus is widespread and can enter your body through cuts, abrasions or puncture wounds made by splinters and thorns. It is potentially fatal and immunisation before infection is the only certain way of dealing with the disease. Check with your doctor how often you need a booster.

Legionellosis (Legionella)

Caused by Legionella bacteria, this is an infectious disease that can be caught by anyone but those with a suppressed immune system are most vulnerable. There are two types to which garden workers may be exposed: Legionella longbeachae, occurring in soil and compost, which can lead to a respiratory disease; and the more common L. pneumonophila, which leads to a type of pneumonia known as legionnaire's disease. The latter form occurs naturally at low levels in watercourses but can multiply in standing water to potentially harmful levels when the water temperature is between 20°C to 45°C.

Aspergillus Fumigatus

This fungus, which is commonly found growing on dead leaves, compost piles and decaying vegetation, may trigger a relatively harmless allergic reaction but can cause serious problems if too many spores get into the lungs. Previous cases of serious illness have been identified when people have been exposed to and inhaled extremely large volumes of the spores. Basic precautions and commonsense should protect individuals from serious adverse effects.

CONTROL MEASURES

Following the basic control measures below should protect employees from the various health hazards:

- Wear gloves whenever handling soil, compost, fertiliser or Fungicides. Thin latex (or latex-free for allergy sufferers) gloves can be worn for delicate work.
- Do not open bags of compost or potting media with your face right over it.
- Fold over the top of compost bags when not in use.
- Avoid potting-up in confined spaces.
- Moisten dry potting media before use.
- Dampen down dry compost heaps before turning or use.
- Consider wearing a dust mask when turning compost heaps and handling potting media or other dusty materials.
- Avoiding storing potting media in greenhouses as these will heat up and may encourage Legionella.

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- Empty the water out of garden hoses after use and do not leave full hoses in the sun after use.
- Avoid splashing water around when watering pots.
- Keep water storage containers such as tanks and butts clean by emptying and scrubbing out once a year. Insulate them to reduce temperatures increasing in warm weather or paint them with a light colour to reflect the heat.
- If the temperature of stored water for use in mist irrigation or sprinklers is above 20°C, do not use.
- Wear gloves and keep arms covered when pruning plants that can cause irritations; e.g. ivy (Hedera), Fremontodendron, Euphorbia or rue (Ruta).
- Only shred woody prunings in an open, well-ventilated area.
- Ensure tetanus jabs are up to date. Otherwise, see your local GP for a tetanus vaccination if you have cut yourself on a plant or got soil or manure in an open wound.
- Discourage rats by securing rubbish in bins and not putting cooked food on the compost heap.
- Rat-proof compost bins with wire mesh if necessary. To reduce the risks from salmonella avoid using rat-infested compost on edible crops, especially those not cooked before consumption.
- Protect from water-borne diseases such as Weil's disease by wearing waterproof gloves, clothing and boots when clearing out ponds.
- Always wash your hands after garden work and especially before eating.
- Keep a hand sterilising gel available in case clean water is not available.

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4.26 Tree Felling and takedown

Hazards

- Equipment and tools
- Falling trees, branches, etc.

RISK ASSESSMENT:

Likelihood	Severity	Risk Value
Score =	Score =	Result =

CONTROL MEASURES

This assessment provides guidelines on how to approach the felling of smaller trees. For all tree felling operations a Method Statement specific to the job will be drawn up that takes account of the local conditions, prevailing weather, etc. The control measures set out below will be used where appropriate but are not exhaustive. The instructions have been provided courtesy of the HSE in the UK.

- Only suitably qualified and experienced staff may undertake this task.
- Check that all necessary aid tools are available and in a serviceable condition. Aid tools that may be needed include a breaking bar, hand tools, wedges, winch, etc.
- It is important to remember that felling is a one-person operation.
- A safe method of operation must be agreed to ensure that a safe working distance can be maintained between workers (at least two tree lengths) and between workers and machinery (outside the risk zone of the machines being used).
- Ensure that all underground and overhead services such as gas, water, sewage, electricity and telephones have been identified before felling.
- When felling adjacent to overhead electric lines, a clearance of not less than twice the height of the tree must be maintained. Felling should be directed away from the electric line. Where felling is within two tree lengths specialist advice must be sought from the ESB.
- Do not fell if wind conditions are such that control over the felling direction might be lost.
- Look out for dead wood, insecure branches and any signs of decay both in the trees to be felled, and in adjacent crowns. Be constantly aware of likely danger, especially when the tree begins to fall.
- Decide the direction of fall and select a suitable escape route.

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- Ensure the escape route is clear of obstructions
- Remove debris from around the base of the tree and any vegetation which might obstruct the operation. Flatten any soft vegetation which could restrict the dispersal of chainsaw exhaust fumes.
- When removing low branches from the tree (brashing), ensure the operator is protected from potential kickback by keeping the guide bar out of line with the body, and by using the stem for protection.
- Do not use the saw above shoulder height.
- Always make a sink as this allows the tree to topple on a hinge that controls the rate and direction of fall.
- The top and bottom sink cuts should meet exactly with no over-cutting which could weaken the hinge.
- Make the main felling cut at or slightly above the level of the bottom sink cut.
- Use appropriate aid tools or techniques where there is a possibility of the tree moving and trapping the saw.
- To achieve good directional control, leave a parallel-sided hinge not less than 25 mm thick at right angles to the direction of fall.
- Where rot is found, ensure that the felling cuts are adjusted to maintain control of the felling direction.
- If the chainsaw jams, switch it off. Pull the saw gently to see if it can be dislodged, otherwise use the correct aid tools to open the cut.
- If the tree has to be left, appropriate measures should be taken to ensure the exclusion zone is maintained. Reassess the situation before continuing the felling operation.
- Where necessary use the appropriate felling aids. When using a breaking bar to lever over the tree, keep the back straight using the legs to lift. Keep both hands on the lever.
- Once any felling cut has been started on a tree, the tree must not be left standing. Do not start a new operation until the tree has fallen.
- When the tree begins to fall, step back and to the side into the escape route. Watch for falling branches and tops. Beware of the butt rebounding.
- So far as is reasonably practicable complete any necessary de-limbing of a felled tree before felling another tree onto it.
- Make every effort to take down a hung-up tree immediately. If this cannot be done, establish adequate exclusion zones. Move to an alternative felling area until the hung-up tree can be safely dealt with.
- Ensure that no other person is within a distance equal to twice the height of the tree.

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- Even proper lifting techniques and manual aid tools have their limitations when it comes to dealing with heavy loads. In such circumstances seek advice and use handling equipment where necessary.
- When using a chainsaw to remove part or all of the hinge, work from a safe position at the side of the tree.
- When rolling lodged trees use a pushing movement. Maximum leverage and muscular effort is obtained by keeping the lever between waist and chest height. Stay outside the danger zone
- Carefully assess the tree to decide the safest and most effective method of takedown, and identify the danger areas around the tree.
- When moving the butt using a pole as a lever, keep behind the pole, and use the legs to push.
- When the tree begins to fall let go of the pole or lever.
- Do not:
 - fell the supporting tree in an attempt to free the hung-up tree;
 - climb a hung-up tree;
 - fell another tree across the hung-up tree in an attempt to dislodge it;
 - walk or work under a hung-up tree;
 - cut pieces off the butt end of a hung-up tree in an attempt to dislodge it.

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4.27 Tree Climbing Operations

Hazards

- Fall from height
- Entanglement

RISK ASSESSMENT:

Likelihood	Severity	Risk Value
Score =	Score =	Result =

CONTROL MEASURES

- Only suitably qualified and experienced staff may undertake this task.
- All climbing be in accordance with the work at height regulations.
- All equipment must be suitable to the task and must be fully inspected before use. Ropes, karabiners and any other load bearing or climbing equipment must also have a planned inspection frequency and must be recorded on a climbing equipment register.
- All participants must be competent and fully trained in tree climbing techniques.
- Every climbing job will be different therefore a site specific risk assessment and method statement must be carried out.
- A minimum of two people must be present at all times. One of these persons must be on the ground and ready and equipped to perform a rescue if necessary.
- All people involved with site works should be able to communicate with each other. Where the responsible person is not on site, communication should be possible, e.g. via mobile phone
- All site personnel should contribute to job planning, raise points of concern and stop work if something is unclear or a safety issue arises.
- On all reasonably foreseeable approaches to the worksite, erect warning and prohibition signs.
- In areas of high public access, a risk assessment may indicate that additional controls, e.g. barrier tape, barriers or extra personnel, are required.
- Climbers not specifically trained in utility work must observe the appropriate minimum distances for work adjacent to overhead power lines.
- Climbers must be aware of the different characteristics of tree species and how these affect the work to be carried out. They

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must also be able to assess the structure and condition of the tree to be climbed and any potential weakness caused by decay and damage.

- While no PPE can provide 100% protection against cuts from chainsaws, when climbing, chainsaw users should wear the following:
 - A safety helmet (HSE strongly recommends a mountaineering style helmet complying with BS EN 12492).
 - Eye protection (complying with either BS EN 1731 or BS EN 166).
 - Hearing protection (complying with BS EN 352).
 - Suitable gloves appropriate to the task and subject to the operator's risk assessment.
 - Leg protection* and groin protection (complying with BS EN 3815). HSA strongly recommends Type C leg protection for aerial work, because of the high all round chainsaw cut protection. However, where wearing Type C is impractical (e.g. because of the higher risk of heat stress associated with it), it may be appropriate to use Type A, where justified by risk assessment.
 - Protective boots* with good grip and protective guarding at front vamp and instep (complying with BS EN ISO 20345).
 - Non snag outer clothing. The use of high visibility clothing may also be appropriate.
- Climbers not using a chainsaw should wear the following:
 - A safety helmet (HSE strongly recommends a mountaineering style helmet complying with BS EN 12492).
 - Protective boots* with good grip and ankle support (complying with BS EN ISO 20345).
 - Non snag outer clothing. The use of high visibility clothing may also be appropriate.
 - Suitable gloves, appropriate to the task and subject to the operator's risk assessment.
- As a minimum, climbers should carry a personal first aid kit, incorporating a large wound dressing, barrier gloves, plasters and a whistle.
- All new climbing equipment should be sold with evidence of conformity with the relevant BS EN standard, and carry a relevant CE mark. No structural alterations should be made to any item.
- Manufacturer's guidance should be followed when determining the typical lifespan of equipment. If the user is at any point

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unsure about a component, it should be removed from service and inspected by a competent person.

- Climbers should carry an adjustable lanyard, to provide (when appropriate) a secondary anchor to prevent the risk of pendulum swing. Lanyards are a key part of a tree climbing system and have many uses, particularly as a supplementary load bearing anchor point when working in the crown or when changing anchor points.
 - Fall arrest equipment is not commonly used in aerial tree work but may be appropriate, e.g. in unusual circumstances if climbers have to work above their anchor point. The extension of an energy absorber and the dangers of striking parts of the tree in a fall as well as the difficulties of achieving ergonomically acceptable work positions must be considered as part of the risk assessment.
 - Select ropes to provide a high margin of safety. Ropes suitable for tree climbing must have a minimum diameter of 10 mm and are not normally larger than 14 mm. When selecting a rope, carefully consider the compatibility of any friction hitches or mechanical devices used.
 - Climbers must know the characteristics and scope of application of any knot used.
 - Each karabiner used to connect the harness to a lifeline should have a spring-loaded self-locking gate that requires at least three distinct movements to open it.
 - Ensure karabiners are loaded correctly. It is essential that they are kept in correct alignment. Secure climbing line and friction cord to the karabiner so that it is unlikely to misalign or come into contact with the gate mechanism. Use an appropriate rope termination and/or a rope holding accessory such as a plastic fast or rubber sleeve.
 - Karabiners should not be 'chain linked' as this can easily lead to twisting and associated pressure on the gate.
 - Monitor karabiners during use.
- The gate mechanism is susceptible to dirt build up that can affect its function.
- Clean the mechanism using soapy water followed by flushing with compressed air after drying. Lubrication may also be necessary (see manufacturer's recommendations).
 - Check the mechanism function by opening the gate 10 mm and applying light rotational pressure to the barrel to bias the mechanism towards the karabiner nose. Carefully rest the

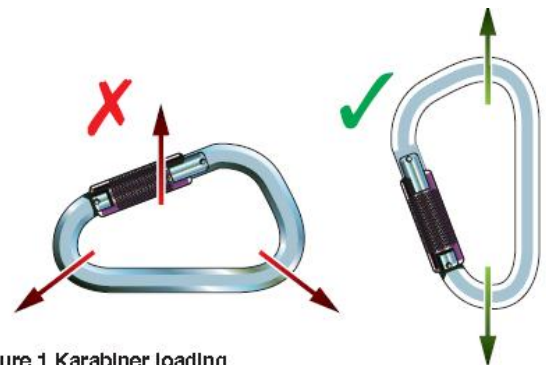


Figure 1 Karabiner loading

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gate onto the karabiner nose and release. The gate should return automatically to the locking position.

- When using climbing irons, the climber should be secured to the tree with a climbing rope and/or a lanyard. Climbers using a chainsaw on an upright stem to which their primary anchor is attached should use a steel core adjustable flip line positioned above their climbing line.
- Only connect the climbing line and/or adjustable lanyard/flip line to approved climbing attachment points on the harness. If attached centrally, ensure that the karabiner/s are not subjected to inappropriate loading. When using the lanyard from the side D-rings, take care to avoid the karabiner gates contacting objects and 'rolling' open.
- Check that the climbing line and the steel core adjustable flip line are not at risk of being cut by the chainsaw.
- When using rope advance techniques, i.e. ascending by climbing from one branch to the next while advancing fall protection systems, the climber must be securely attached to at least one suitable anchor point at all times by means of a climbing rope and/or safety stop(s) and harness.
- Ground staff should transfer equipment to the climber using the climbing line or a separate tool line. Equipment should be attached so it does not damage the rope.
- In many instances, tree pruning work can be safely and efficiently carried out using hand saws, eliminating chainsaw hazards, e.g. noise, vibration, fumes and difficulties with communication. However, as risks of cut injury can be high, particularly to the hand holding the material being cut, consider wearing protective gloves.
- Before descent, climbers must check that the climbing system is of a suitable length to complete the planned descent.
- Terminate the climbing system in such a way that it is not possible for the adjuster to run off the end of the rope, eg using a stopper knot or bulky stitched termination.
- Climbers must descend to the ground in a controlled manner to avoid the excessive buildup of heat that could damage PPE components. Ensure that anchor devices are also lowered in a controlled manner.



Section felling using spikes

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4.28 Aerial Tree Rescue

Hazards

- Equipment and tools
- Falling trees, branches, etc.
- Falling persons

RISK ASSESSMENT:

Likelihood	Severity	Risk Value
Score =	Score =	Result =

CONTROL MEASURES

This assessment provides guidelines on how to approach the rescue of a person stranded in a tree. In reality, each rescue will be considered using these guidelines and a rescue specific plan devised as quickly as possible. The instructions have been provided courtesy of the HSE in the UK.

- Only suitably qualified and experienced staff may undertake this task.
- A minimum of two people must be present during all tree-climbing operations. One of the ground team must be available, competent and equipped to perform an aerial rescue without delay.
- Ensure a designated and responsible person knows the daily work programme and agree with them a suitable contact procedure. Where reasonably practicable use a two-way radio or mobile phone and a pre-arranged call-in system. This is particularly important for remote sites where a check on the operator's safety is important.
- As part of the risk assessment, the worksite and planned operation must be evaluated to establish the necessary emergency procedures for recovery and evacuation of casualties. All operators on site must have received adequate instruction and information and be trained in these procedures
- When an injured climber needs rescuing, ensure all possible precautions are taken to safeguard other members of the work team and any others entering or approaching the worksite. If overhead cables are involved, do not approach the work area. Stop work, assess the situation and contact the electricity company.
- Ensure no unauthorised people are within the working area.
- The casualty's condition must be assessed. If necessary, call for the emergency services before starting the rescue,

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ensuring appropriate information is given regarding the location of the site and any particular access problems. Personal details about the casualty (names and any relevant medical history etc) as well as the approximate time of the accident, treatment given and any chemicals involved should also be provided.

- The following rescue equipment must always be available at the worksite
 - A suitable first-aid kit
 - A suitable climber's harness and associated equipment, e.g. ropes, strops, karabiners or any other equipment that the rescuer is familiar with to help their rescue technique.
 - Other items of equipment necessary for a rescuer to climb effectively, e.g. a ladder, climbing irons, ascenders or descenders.
 - A sharp knife with a retractable blade for cutting ropes etc. There is a risk of recoil when cutting ropes under tension, or cutting the wrong rope, as well as cut injuries to the rescuer or casualty. Consider other techniques for removing a casualty from a tensioned line.

Helping the casualty and climbing to a rescue

- Reassure the casualty and encourage self-help whenever possible.
- Select a rescue method which does not put the rescuer at risk and minimises the risk of further injury to the casualty.
- Only trained operators should use equipment such as mobile elevated work platforms and cranes for an aerial tree rescue.
- Select an efficient method of climbing the tree to reach the casualty as quickly as possible.
- If specialised climbing aids are available and rescue personnel are trained in their use, use them to speed up access to the casualty.
- Take account of hazards, such as severed, broken, hanging branches or the casualty's equipment that may create a risk.
- Assess the tree(s) and select appropriate equipment to remove parts of the tree(s) which would impede the rescue operation. Other operators may do this if needed.
- Use other personnel, if available, to prepare the equipment ready for use in the tree(s).
- The casualty must be made safe from immediate hazards as soon as possible.
- Assess the casualty's condition and prioritise first-aid treatment.

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- In some cases, especially those involving fracture, crush or possible spinal injury, only move the victim under medical supervision (e.g. a paramedic or the ambulance service).
- The rescuer should maintain close contact with the casualty to monitor changes in condition and to calm and control them if necessary.
- Rescuers must be properly anchored at all times to ensure their own safety throughout the rescue operation. Anchor points must be selected to ensure they are capable of taking the anticipated loads during the rescue.
- When the casualty is brought down from the tree, the rescuer and casualty should descend together to ease movement through the branches and to monitor the casualty's condition.
- Densely branched trees may require alternative methods of rescue. Obstacles on the ground may dictate the most suitable method.
- Continue to help the casualty under the direction of paramedics until the casualty is transported from the site.
- Ensure the site is safe and secure before all personnel leave. Note the contact details of any witnesses. Where possible take photographs of the site. Do not use any of the equipment involved in the incident until it has been thoroughly examined by a competent person.
- Notify Manager 2 of the incident and record the occurrence on an accident report form.

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PART 5

ANNUAL REPORT

ABC COMPANYSAFETY STATEMENT

The following is a report of progress with our Health and Safety Policy as required by Section 12(6) of the Safety Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005.

SAFETY TRAINING:

During the year, the following safety training courses were run:

- 1
- 2
- 3

External safety and health courses attended by our staff included:

- 1
- 2
- 3

NEW SAFETY ARRANGEMENTS

The following new safety arrangements were put in place during the year:

- 1
- 2
- 3

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ABC Company
Safety Statement

Safety Statement Document Review

ABC COMPANY

To ensure the proper implementation of our Safety Systems we shall review the Safety Statement periodically and at least annually.

Date of Review	Signed for Company	Description of Changes	Date of update

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ABC Company

Safety Statement

Part 6 Staff Sign Off

We the undersigned accept that:

- We have been shown the Safety Statement,
- We know where it is to be kept for review,
- We will adhere to all safety rules as set out by ABC Company
- We will not act in any way that could be harmful to ourselves or any other person.

Name in block	Signature	Date

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	Safety Statement

Appendix

PREVIEW

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	Safety Statement

Accident Report Form

Location:	Department/Division:
Date of Accident/Incident:	Date of Review:
Management present:	
Injured Party	

Nature of loss	Nature and extent of actual or potential loss to people, property, process or the environment
Description	Description of the Accident/Incident (who, what, how, when)
Causes	Why did the Accident/Incident occur, (root, basic and immediate causes)?
Recommendations	Action to prevent recurrence, responsibility & action by dates:
Reporting	Distribution of investigation information organisation wide and statutory reporting / reply:

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	Safety Statement

Staff Suggestion forms

SECTION A: To be completed by staff member with suggestion

Staff Member Name:_____ Position:_____
Date:_____

Details of Suggestion:

SECTION B: to be completed by Supervisor or Manager 1

Action Taken:








Signature:_____

Date_____

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	Safety Statement	








Template Method Statement when necessary (From CIF).

Contractor	Name:	Address:		Tel:
				E-mail:
Project Name				
Description of the Task/Activity				
Site Address/Location:		Start Date/Time:		
		Finish Date/Time		
Personnel Involved	Name	Role/Trade		
Site Supervisor:		Tel:		
Safety Officer		Tel:		
Key Plant & Tools (Attach Certification)				
Key Materials				
Other Essential Equipment:	(i.e. access platforms/winches/ladders, etc)			
Specific Identified Residual Hazards: (or refer to the task specific risk assessment(s))				
Specific Staff Training				

Sequence of Operations: (include sketches if required)	<div>1.</div> <div>2.</div> <div>3.</div> <div>4.</div> <div>5.</div> <div>6.</div> <div>7.</div> <div>8.</div> <div>9.</div> <div>10.</div>						
Temporary Supports and Props needed to facilitate the works:	(if none, state none)						
Method of Access and Egress to the work area:	(i.e. Ladders/MEWPS/Scaffold/Trestles/Step Ladder, etc)						
Fall Protection Measures: (Where work at height cannot be eliminated – consider both Personnel & Materials)	(i.e. Guard Rails/Toe Boards/Brick Guard/Safety Harnesses/Exclusion Zones, etc.)						
Hazardous Substances: (Attach MSDS if required)	 Very Toxic	 Harmful/Irritant	 Corrosive	 Dangerous For the environment	 Oxidising	 Highly flammable	 Explosives
Applicable:	Yes/ No	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/ No	Yes/No	Yes/ No

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ABC Company Safety Statement

Storage Arrangements:							
Details of Permits to Work:							
SWL's:	(Detail any limits on the loadings applicable to temporary plant/equipment or fixed elements of the structure where the work is taking place)						
Required Personnel Protective Equipment:	 Safety Boots	 Hard Hats	 Safety Gloves	 Hearing Protection	 Eye Protection	 Respiratory Protection	Other: 1. Hi-Viz 2. Coveralls 3.
Emergency Procedures:							
 First Aid Facilities:	Name of On-Site First Aider:						
	First Aid Box Location:						
	Location of Nearest Hospital:						
Welfare Requirements							
Services to be supplied by Others							
Other information & Comments							

All work will be undertaken by qualified competent persons with experience of the type of work described above, and in all cases in full accordance with safety procedures specified in the company's health and safety Policy.

Prepared by:
Position:
Reviewed by:
Position:

Date:

Date:

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PART 8 Related Policies

8.1 ABC Company Environmental Policy

ABC Company will seek to promote the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources and to minimise environmental pollution in all their activities and, where possible, by it's influence over others. The objective will be to minimise the environmental impact of all operations.

Consideration will be given to substitution of polluting substances with "greener" alternatives wherever possible. Steps will be taken to minimise smoke, dust, noise, and vibration nuisance - the potential for which will be identified during the assessment process.

All waste disposals shall be carried out by registered carriers and removed to registered disposal sites. Documentation shall be held to demonstrate compliance with this. Wherever possible waste shall be recycled, reclaimed or reused.

Liquid pollutants will not be allowed to enter watercourses. All liquid storage will be bunded wherever there is a risk.

This policy will be enforced by managerial vigilance and shall be subject to regular auditing and review.

8.2 ABC Company Equality Policy

ABC Company are an equal opportunities Employer & thus, as laid out in this policy, seek to comply with all legal regulations & directives with regard to dealing with individuals or groups in a fair & legal way.

It is the policy of ABC Company to deal (employ, pay, consult, interview, speak to, and write to etc.) with any person/s equally & with dignity Regardless of disposition:

- Gender
- Race
- Colour
- Creed (Religious Persuasion)
- Nationality
- Disability or Physical Impairment
- Financial Status

ABC Company, its Management and Staff must uphold & comply with this policy. Failure to comply with this policy could result in immediate disciplinary action & possible dismissal.

Should any person cause harm, harass, sexually harass or disadvantage any of the above because of their disposition, that person/s will be reported to the Authorities & will be dealt with on a legal basis.

It is the overall policy of this company to practice equality & to be fair to all.