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Activity: <i>Tree Popping</i>	Location: <i>Any site.</i>	
People at Risk: <i>Tree Poppers, clearing of biomass and burning of biomass.</i>	Additional Information: <i>A generic risk assessment that covers most of the field conditions on site when removing unwanted scrub by means of Tree Poppers.</i>	
Contact Person <i>Alan Martin</i> Role: <i>Sole Agent</i>		Review Date:
..... Date: <i>Nov 2021</i>		

Risk Evaluation

Every site will have conditions and situation unique to it. Although this risk assessment is an attempt to cover most eventualities, all sites need to be assessed as individual entities. This risk assessment must be considered in conjunction with the risk evaluation for Tree Poppers, Silky Root Saws and Secateurs.

Hazard	Risk	Rating (L, M, H,)	Additional Action Required (action by whom and completion date)
<i>Physical nature of task at hand.</i>	<i>Exhauster and dehydration.</i>	<i>H</i>	<i>Take a midmorning break and lunch break and have a drink to maintain fluid levels. Energy snack bars and appropriate lunch packs are essential. All team members must be encouraged to consume water regularly during the course of a working day. In addition to their personal water bottles, additional fresh clean drinking water should be available at all times.</i>

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<i>The job demands good dexterity, practical mind and excellent health.</i>	<i>Physical demands of the daily task.</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>Appoint practical minded, fit individuals that are comfortable working outdoors. Job description and personal specification relevant to Tree Popping below.</i>
<i>Sun and other elements.</i>	<i>Exposure</i>	<i>H</i>	<p><i>All team members are encouraged to wear hats and have waterproofs with them at all times.</i></p> <p><i>Due to nature of work, it is essential everyone involved in scrub clearance bring along a change of clothing to travel home in. Popping results in excessive perspiration.</i></p>
<i>Trip hazards</i>	<p><i>Not being able to see below or under the tall and dense vegetation for holes and ditches.</i></p> <p><i>Tripping over removed scrub.</i></p>	<i>H</i>	<p><i>Inform all of the hazard and insist they check when working in/or before entering areas with dense ground cover.</i></p> <p><i>All removed biomass to be stacked in small piles to the side of the poppers, ensuring they do not covering plants that need to be removed. The piles will ensure the work areas are kept free of additional trip hazards.</i></p>
<i>Tripping over discarded tool, when cutting roots.</i>	<i>Once the shrub or tree has been lifted out the ground and the operator has reached for the Silky Root Saw to cut the longer or thicker roots in the soil, the Tree Popper is removed from the plant and dropped to one side, before the roots are severed.</i>	<i>H</i>	<p><i>Operator to make sure he or she knows where the Tree Popper is at all times and be aware of others working close by.</i></p> <p><i>Once roots have been severed, pick up tool and place in visible position, before dealing with the removed plant.</i></p>
<i>Misplacing tool and tripping over tools</i>	<p><i>If operators need to leave the tool at point where they are working; to remove clear scrub, have a drink or take a break.</i></p> <p><i>Never lay the tool on the ground as it is difficult to find and becomes a trip hazard.</i></p>	<i>H</i>	<i>When leaving tool for any length of time in the field always prop it up against a tree, shrub or rock, so that it is visible and can be easily seen from a distance and can be located when Popping is resumed.</i>
<i>Tree Popper slipping of trunk</i>	<i>Tool slipping of trunk or stump.</i>	<i>H</i>	<i>Only use correct size tool on the prescribed</i>

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			<p>diameter trunks or stems you are removing.</p> <p>If the stem is elliptical, the jaws only normally fit on one side. Take particular care if this is the case, as the tool can slip off the stem.</p> <p>Initially always apply gentle steady pressure to the handle when removing a vegetation to make sure the tool is securely attached. Especially when working on coppiced stumps.</p>
<p>Extend leverage by attaching a hollow pipe to the end of the handle.</p> <p>The stop on base plate determines the diameter of the trunk or stem that can be removed by the different size Tree Poppers,</p>	<p>Dangerous! Will damage the tool and result in injury to operator.</p> <p>Tackling to large a stem diameter for the tool (jaw size) will damage the tool and result in injury of operator.</p>	H	<p>Never do this, the tool is made to operate within certain constraints.</p> <p>Never do this, the tool is made to operate within certain constraints.</p>
<p>Coppiced stumps protruding above the ground</p> <p>Crushing two to three year old coppiced stumps when the tool is attached</p>	<p>Trip hazards and a potential danger of falling on to them when Popping vegetation in the area.</p> <p>Older or slightly rotted stumps are/and can be crushed by the jaws of the Tree Popper when applying pressure to the handle.</p>	M	<p>Be aware of the stumps, make sure whatever you are popping is firmly and securely gripped by the jaws of the tool. Make sure the stump is tall enough to allow the jaws to grip it and not slip off over the top of the stump.</p> <p>When working on older coppiced stumps protruding above the ground, apply gentle steady pressure to the handle to check the strength of the stump.</p>
<p>When working on Golf Course.</p>	<p>Flying golf balls.</p>	M	<p>When working on carries and in field of play, keep an eye out for golfers and when golfers Ting off or playing second or third shot and you or the team are in range.</p> <p>Move out the way preferably to behind cover.</p>
<p>Blisters and repetitive strain injuries.</p>	<p>Griping handle and size of tool.</p>	L	<p>All staff must be provided with gloves. Swop</p>

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			<p><i>to a different size Tree Popper from time to time during a full days Popping.</i></p> <p><i>Popping for three consecutive days in a row proves the most productive use of manpower. Day four normally proves demanding on operators, and day five results in lower production standards, due popping fatigue.</i></p>
<p><i>Sparks, smoke and ash, if biomass is to be burnt.</i></p>	<p><i>Synthetic clothing melting, smoke in your eyes, burns and inhaling fine particles.</i></p>	<p><i>M</i></p>	<p><i>Provide fire retardant coveralls and think leather gauntlets for staff loading the fires. Spoggles (sealed goggles) and dust masks.</i></p>
<p><i>Fire</i></p>	<p><i>Setting additional vegetation alight.</i></p>	<p><i>M</i></p>	<p><i>Fire extinguishing equipment at hand and fire stackers trained in how to use the extinguishers. Clearing burn sites of vegetation prior to burning or burning on a raised platform.</i></p> <p><i>Consider weather condition on the day and days preceding the burn (see attached "Fire Danger Rating Categories).</i></p> <p><i>Inform the regions fire control of dates on which you will be burning.</i></p>
<p><i>Twigs and branches</i></p> <p><i>Dirt and grit being flicked into eyes</i></p>	<p><i>Damage to eyes.</i></p> <p><i>Irritation to eyes (especially if tools are gripped closer to the jaws when removing small plants)</i></p>	<p><i>L</i></p> <p><i>M</i></p>	<p><i>Safety glasses at hand for each individual and to be worn if condition demand it.</i></p> <p><i>Safety glasses at hand for each individual and to be worn if condition demand it. Or look away once tool is attached and you about to pop the plant.</i></p>

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<i>Dry and hard vegetation</i>	<i>Scratches, grazes and cuts from vegetation</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>All staff to wear suitable outdoor clothing, first aid kit at hand and trained first aider.</i>
<i>Disturbance of wasp nest, bees and other insects bites.</i>	<i>By popping scrub growing alongside old tree stumps one could inadvertently disturb wasp nest. Bees and other flying insects on the wing.</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>Appoint staff that are not allergic to bees, wasps and other insect bites.</i>
<i>Ablution facilities or lack thereof.</i>	<i>Environmental and personal health.</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>Initiated whatever is acceptable to land owner or management authority whose land it is. In the more extensive areas, where access is only possible on foot. Entombing paper and excrement, might be the only practical way of dealing with the call of nature. Additional water, soap (hand gel) and towel to wash hands after surrendering to the call of nature or before eating or drinking is essential.</i>
<i>Litter</i>	<i>Degradation of the environment</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>All wrappers and litter to be placed in day packs and be removed from site and disposed of appropriately thereafter.</i>
<i>In the event of needing the emergency services.</i>	<i>Emergency</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>Obtain list of the relevant emergency services and direction to the nearest hospital from client or landowner/manager and have a fully charge mobile phone on site at all times, if there is reception. If not make necessary arrangements with</i>

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			<i>neighbours or nearest land line to point of work.</i>
<i>Operator's presence on site.</i>	<i>To avoid client or land owner/manager having to deal with unnecessary calls from the public while the team is busy are on site, and to ensure someone knows where you are on the more extensive sites.</i>	L	<i>Always let client land owner/mangers know when you are on site and where you will be working.</i>

Job description and personal specification for Poppers, Stackers and those burning biomass are include as part of this risk assessment. *It is assumed shovel, hole and entomb, is accepted, if workers need to surrender to the call of nature in areas where it is not practical to carry in or have porta potties on site.*

Job description and personal specifications:

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- Able to work as part of a team popping trees for extended periods.
- Able to pay attention to detail and aim to pop or remove all specified scrub with a Tree Popper and be prepared to hand pull the smaller suitably sized scrub.
- Be prepared to undertake a full days of tree popping.
- Work with hand tools that weigh 7 to 9kg respectively and that have sharp edges.
- Strive to hit targets and get the area cleared in the specified time.
- Individuals would be expected to pay for any tools or equipment lost by them or damaged through negligence.
- Be prepared to take all litter and waste generated back home in day pack (No littering).

All staff and volunteers must be fit, practical and reliable and be comfortable working outdoors.

Personal specifications.

- Be prepared to be trained in the use of the Tree Popper, Silky Root saws and secateurs.
- Be in excellent health
- Physically fit
- Have good dexterity
- Be Practically minded
- Have an eye for detail and the ability to work systematically and thoroughly.

All staff or volunteers **must provide their own** foot ware (sturdy boots), water proofs, mug (for rehydration drinks), and a change of dry clothing to drive

home in. Tree popping results in excessive perspiration (especially when working in waterproof). Hats and sunblock if required. Their own water bottle, thermos (if they want warm drinks during the day) adequate lunch (popping is energy sapping work) and morning snack (if they do not have breakfast before they leave).

Employer **to provide**: Toilet paper, shovel, water, soap or hand gel and towel. Gloves, goggles and welding gauntlets, flame retardant boiler suits if biomass is to be burnt as well as respirators/dusk masks. First aid kit and fire extinguishing equipment.