



Alan Martin
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Activity: Operating and handling Tree Poppers	Location: Anywhere, anytime.
People at Risk: Tree Popper Operator	Additional Information: All action to be taken by operator of the Tree Popper and to be done while handling a Tree Popper.
Contact PersonAlan Martin..... Role:Sole Agent Date:July 2018.....	
Review Date:	

Risk Evaluation

For using the large, small (medium) and mini Tree Poppers supplied by Nature Conservation Services as well as Silky Root Saw and secateurs.

Hazard	Risk	Rating (L, M, H,)	Additional Action Required (action by whom and completion date)
Picking up the tool.	Letting it slip from your hand	L	Use two hands when lifting the large (9kg) or small (7kg) Tree Popper, the mini only weighs 3kg and can be lift with one hand.
Removable Big Foot plate for large and small (medium) Tree Poppers.	The tools is more cumbersome with the Big Foot plate attached to them. If tool is carried on to site with the Big Foot attach to it, the chance of injury to the person carrying the tool are increased.	M	Always remove Big Foot Plate and only attach to large and small (medium) Tree popper on site. The Big Foot Plate is best transported

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			wrapped in cardboard cut to size, in back pack with the nuts and bolts secured to plate. Two 10mm spanners are required to attach and remove the Big Foot Plate.
Once lifted, the length of the handle could knock things over or hit people.	Bumping and knocking into people or things.	M	Ensure handle is parallel to your body and held close to your chest. When putting it on your shoulder, ensure the foot is close to the back of your head, with handle extended out in front of you, so you can see it.
Loading into vehicles,	If tail gate or back door lift upwards, be careful not to knock out back window.	M	Using both hands keep tools (Tree Poppers) horizontal when loading into vehicle with the foot plate close to your body. Loading it handle first into the vehicle.
Unloading tools from vehicle	Knocking out side windows and hitting people behind you.	M	Lift and keep foot plate near your body and the handle horizontal. Move backwards with tool in front of you. Place foot on ground, using both hands, and keep tool close body. If placing on your shoulder make sure you far enough away from the vehicle.
Using tool (Tree Popper) in the field.	Placing tool on your foot or knocking your legs or knees on tool.	L	Concentrate and watch what you are doing, especially with Big Foot attached.
Jaws not securely clamp on to trunk or stem.	Tool slipping off stem.	L	Ensure jaws are on either side and well connected to trunk or stem. Initially always apply gentle steady pressure to the handle when removing a vegetation to make sure the tool is securely attached. Always apply downward pressure when popping (this

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			ensure the jaws stay clamped to stem).
The full length of a standing tree or shrub moving towards the ground.	Knocking or landing on someone.	M	Make sure the area around you, and especially in the direction you are levering is clear and nobody is in the way.
When levering.	Knocking yourself with the handle.	L	Place both hands on handle, pull towards you (using arm and shoulders) and pass it in front of you close to your chest.
When popping,	Hands slipping off handle, especially in the wet.	L	Grip handle with both hands, one on either side of handle.
If working in pairs, Pop – a – teer (<i>Pop –a –teer = Popper Operator</i>) and Non Pop –a –teer .	Non Pop – a –teer could be hit by handle when moving in to serve roots or assist with extraction	M	Non Pop – a- teer to keep an eye on tool and handle at all times to avoid being hit by handle while popping or root extraction is under way. Especially relevant while handle is still on it way down.
Shrub or tree coming towards you as you start levering.	Twigs and branches scratting your face or eyes.	M	As soon as the plant starts to move, turn your back on it. This allows you to keep an eye on the handle and put your full weight into keeping the jaws clamped to the stem.
Once shrub or tree has been removed.	Scratches or knocks if the removed biomass is lifted incorrectly.	L	Lift extracted plant (once the Tree Popper has been removed from it) with both hands if large. Work near the root ball, looking down the length of stem so you can see what you are doing.

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Using Silky Saw to sever roots or cut them while tree is still standing.	Cutting yourself while unsheathing and sheathing the saw.	M	<p>Always hold scabbard with your free hand, when sheathing or unsheathing saw. Keep blade and teeth pointing down and in front of you when using saw, so that you can see it at all times.</p> <p>Never place or drop the saw on the ground, it could land with the teeth facing upwards.</p>
When using the secateurs, always check the cutting edges are locked into place, and lock the shears before placing in holster.	Open tools can hurt you when reaching for them.	L	Always lock and make sure the jaws are locked and the spring (pupa) is in place, when returning secateurs to holster. Without the spring (pupa) the handle always seem to be apart.
Cleaning the groves of the Tree Popper's jaws.	Cutting yourself while dislodging bark and plant sap trapped in the groves of the jaw.	L	<p>When using secateurs blade to clear the groves, make sure your left hand is well below and behind the middle upright plate of the foot plate.</p> <p>If left handed, use the bottle opener on a Swiss Army knife. Once task has been completed, close knife and return to pocket (best to secure the knife to your belt with a lanyard) or hang it around your neck on a lanyard. This way you will not lose the knife.</p>

All operators must be fit, practical and be comfortable working outdoors.

- All operators must be shown how to use the Tree Popper, Silky Root saws and secateurs.
- Be in excellent health
- Physically fit
- Have good dexterity
- Be practically minded

- Be aware of what is around them and who is close to them
- Have an eye for detail, concentrate on and watch what they are doing.