
Weedkiller Spraying Melbourn Parish Council - Risk Assessment (Village Warden)

RISK ASSESSMENT MATRIX

Risk = Hazard Severity(A) x (B) Probability of Harm

(A) Hazard Severity Should be assessed on a scale of 1 - 5:

1. Low (minor injury to one individual)
2. Slight (injury or disease capable of keeping one person off work 3 or more days)
3. Moderate (injury or disease capable of keeping more than one person off work for 3 or more days)
4. High (death to an individual)
5. Very High (multiple deaths)

(B) Likelihood of occurrence (Probability of Harm) Should be assessed on a scale of 1- 5:

1. Not likely (an injury may occur less than once in a working year, doing this activity every day)
2. Possible (an injury may occur once in a working year, doing this activity every day)
3. Occasional (an injury is likely to occur 2 or 3 times in a working year, doing this activity every day)
4. Common (an injury is likely to occur more than 3 times in a working year, doing this activity every day)
5. Likely (an injury is probably going to occur)

Use the Risk Equation above to determine the level of **Risk**. This ranges from 1 (low severity and unlikely), to 25, (just waiting to happen with widespread and dangerous results). Use the equation above to determine a **risk factor** ranging from 1 (no severity and unlikely to happen) to 25 (just waiting to happen, with disastrous and widespread results). To make equation work effectively, 'likelihood' and 'severity' must be judged independently.

Judgement of Risk Factors

1-3 Low, improve when possible; 4-9 Medium risk factor, improve as soon as possible; 10+ Deal with the risk before you start the task, preferably before anyone else arrives on site. A risk factor of 10+ is unacceptable. If it cannot be reduced, do not carry out the

task.

Activity: Weed Killer Spraying – Village Wardens Site location: Melbourn Village – All Areas					Name of assessor: John Travis Date of assessment: September 2017
Description of hazard	Severity of hazard (A) score 1 – 5	Probability of harm (B), score 1 – 5	Risk factor (A x B)	Action required	Notes
General	N/A	N/A	N/A	Before starting the task ensure that the site has been checked and is accessible. Inform the Parish Clerk work is scheduled and when work is complete.	Check all paths are accessible, that no unforeseen obstructions exist such as fallen branches, tools left around or excavations, and that harm will not arise to members of the public who may be close to the work area
Weedkiller Concentrate Handling	2	2	4	Wear gloves and eye protection when dispensing and diluting concentrated weedkiller	Read Manufacturers instructions for use. Dilute concentrate according to directions for pressure spray equipment.
Pressurised Vessels	3	2	6	Wear appropriate clothing that covers, hands, exposed skin and a face mask or eye-goggles to avoid droplets entering the eyes	Eye protection is essential for this task where a pre-pressurised spray unit is used. Work should not be carried out if proper eye protection in not available.
Back strain from carrying filled spray container and bending to apply spray head	2	2	4	Take regular breaks from the task and maintain an upright stance if possible	If a body harness is available with the chosen spray unit it should be worn to support the weight of the spray vessel.
Tripping/twisting due to uneven ground	1	2	2	Look for potentially unseen obstacles and depressions during pre-work checks of the site. Wear stout footwear.	Report significant obstacles and avoid especially difficult to access areas
Spray-Drift due to windy conditions	2	2	4	Exercise caution when working if wind speed is noticeable. Consider only spraying in very calm conditions.	Take special care if working close to public places and near plants and gardens owned by residents or the council.
Cleaning of Pre-	2	1	2	Follow equipment manufacturers	Do not dispose of excess diluted weedkiller into

Pressurised Equipment				instruction on cleaning. Wear gloves and eye protection. Take special care when releasing pressure from pressure vessel.	public drains.
Lone Working, lack of communication, with restricted reporting or assistance in emergency situations (injury to operator or others)	3	2	6	Advise Parish Clerk when and where work is to be done. Advise when work is completed.	Wardens are advised to carry a mobile phone if working alone or ensure contact can be made when the need arises