


Risk Assessment Form (Qualitative)

Project / Location:	H.H.D.A.S WATERS	RA & Issue No:	004
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Prepared by:	L.R.SMITH	Date:	10/10/16	Signature:	
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ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION:	Tree Felling (Non Climbing)		
Person (s) at risk:	Employees		Public
	Contractors		Visitors

Start Date:		Anticipated Duration:	
Review Date Of Risk Assessment:			

POTENTIAL HAZARD CHECK LIST – Prior to Risk Assessment

LEVEL OF RISK 0 = NONE L = LOW M = MEDIUM H = HIGH

HAZ CODE	HAZARDOUS ACTIVITY	RISK LEVEL	HAZ CODE	HAZARDOUS ACTIVITY	RISK LEVEL
EX	Excavation (Trench collapse, Atmosphere Etc.)		MH	Manual Handling (Weight, Awkward, Location Etc.)	
WAH	Working at Heights (Falling, Access Etc.)	H	NV	Noise / Vibration (Hearing Damage, Circulation)	
CS	Confined Spaces (Hazardous atmospheres)		AH	Working adjacent to hazards (Interference, Falling objects Etc.)	
EAS	Existing / Adjacent Services (Electric Shock, Gas, water Etc.)		EH	Electricity – Hazards (Electric Shock Etc.)	
C	Material Hazard COSHH (Fumes, Skin damage, Burns Etc.)		E	Environment (Dust, fume, biological)	
LO	Lifting Operations: (Weights, Falling, High Winds Etc.)	H	HW	Hot Work (Fire, Sparks etc.)	
A	Asbestos, Lead or Other Contamination: (Inhalation, Digestion)		TM	Traffic (Work adj to Public Highway, Site Vehicles)	
WE	Work Equipment & Small Tools (Overturning, Other people Etc.)		STF	Slip, Trips & Falls	
F	Fire		HK	Housekeeping	
O1	Other: Public injury		O2	Other:	

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HAZ Code	Significant Hazards	Risk Level (M/H)	Control Procedure / COSHH / PPE / Permit to Work / Method Statement etc.	Residual Risk Level (L/0)	Further requirements, e.g. monitoring, training, advice to others etc.	
	Initial site survey		An advance site survey to be carried out to confirm method of felling – non climbing or sectional felling. Check site location for proximity hazards e.g. lighting columns, gas kiosks, overhead cables and other structures.			
F	Personal injuries Fire Hazardous substances	M	Pre use checks to be carried out on all selected work equipment tool and aid tools to ensure they are in a serviceable condition. Fire extinguishers to be tagged / dated in serviceable condition, fuel spill kit available with hazardous substances correctly labelled - felling team to select and wear correct PPE. All refuelling to be undertaken at an agreed safe location away from all sources of ignition	L	Tools / work equipment; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breaking bars • Small and large plastic/ metal wedges. • Sledge hammers • Winches • Chainsaws • Control lines / pull ropes / Anchor lines 	
WAH	Fall from height	H	No Operative is to climb on any Work at height equipment to gain access to the tree All work on this project is to be undertaken from ground level	0		
LO	Injury from impact of felled tree	H	Any person who is felling a tree must be competent in the equipment and the methodology of the felling. A Manager is to authorise and approve this individual. The feller is the lead person and must direct the other members of the team to ensure they are out of the danger zone and are in a position that controls this type of project Felling a tree is a one person task, all other members of the team are to be briefed and understand clear of the area ensuring that no other person encroaches into the area 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).	L		

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LO	Injury from impact of felled tree – Cont'd	H	Do not fell if wind conditions are such that control over the felling direction might be lost	L	<p>A walk down of the agreed escape route(s) to be carried out by the lead feller and team.</p> <p>Check for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ground holes • Underground services • Overhead services 	
			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			
			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.			
			Always make a sink. This allows the tree to be felled 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.			
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.						
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						
O1	Injury to public of felled tree	H	Once any felling cut has been started on a tree, the tree must not be left standing	0		

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			<p>Do not start a new operation until the tree has fallen. Segregate the public from the work area to a distance of x3 the height of the tree by use of warning signs and barriers this must be policed by other members of the team</p> <p>Anybody encroaching during the activity of felling must be immediately restrained and escorted from the area. the task of felling is to be suspended until person is safely out of the way</p> <p>Undertake the felling of the tree at a time of least public activity</p>			
WE	Work Equipment hazards	H	<p>See chain saw RA 002</p> <p>If the chainsaw jams, a. switch it off b. Pull the saw gently to see if it can be dislodged c. Otherwise use the correct aid tools to open the cut d. If the tree has to be left, appropriate measures should be taken to ensure the exclusion zone is maintained. e. Re-assess the situation before continuing the felling operation.</p>	L		
EAS	Damage to underground services and ducts	M	Ensure that all underground and overhead services such as gas, water, sewage, electricity and telephones have been identified before felling	0		
EAS	Damage to overhead cables If touched Electric failure Electric Shock i	M	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 the advice of the power supply company (owner) of the overhead electric lines must be sought.	0		
LO	Impact injury from preparing tree and the removal of the lower branches prior to fell tree	M	<p>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</p> <p>Do not use the saw above shoulder height</p>	L		
TM	Felling a tree adjacent to roads, footpaths, towpaths or public access areas	M	<p>Contact the local authority or client dependant on the location describe task and planned method of felling tree</p> <p>Set up a traffic management plan as required</p>	0		

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			Place physical barriers Closure of roads may be required if so contact and request assistance from local police station			
STF	Slips; trips and falls due to uneven terrain	M	Evaluate the work area and take account of prevailing weather, e.g. winds, rain, snow ice Re-evaluate if weather conditions change and stop work if weather conditions dictate Clear brush and vegetation as the work progresses Wear protective footwear	L		

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