

Colwall Orchard Group: Activity Risk Assessment: ARA03 - Pruning

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RISK		Increasing likelihood →			Level of Risk	Action
		1	2	3		
Inc · se ve rit y →	1	1	2	3	1-2	Low risk: no further action
	2	2	4	6	3-4	Medium risk: ensure compliance with guidance notes and Safe Ways of Working (SWOW)
	3	3	6	9	6-9	Risk unacceptable: modify procedures to reduce risk

Prepared by: Helen Stace: 17th May 2017

Review: Annually thereafter (or in the event of any incident)

Reviewed by: Andy Ball and Chris Blake 28 April 2020

Next review: by 31st April 2021

Notes:

This activity based Risk Assessment should be read in conjunction with relevant site based Risk Assessments and Safe Ways of Working.

All pruning tasks will be led by a competent Lead Volunteer who should be:

- familiar with the relevant Safe Ways of Working and Checklists
- familiar with Site and Activity based Risk Assessments
- able to instruct, supervise and monitor volunteers engaged on the task.

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Step 1 <i>List significant hazards and harm here</i>	Step 2 <i>Assess risk (likelihood x severity)</i>	Step 3 <i>Mitigation: List existing controls</i>	Step 4 <i>Residual risk (likelihood x severity)</i>	Step 5 <i>Further action needed (by whom and when)</i>
ITEM 1 - Injury from misuse of hand tools – cuts, abrasions, lacerations, puncture wounds, fractures, twists, sprains and strains	9 (3x3)	All tools to be maintained in good condition and checked prior to use. Appropriate risk and H&S briefings and demonstrations to be given to all groups using tools on site. Ensure tools are used appropriately, within their design capabilities. Ensure that no-one else is standing within reach of tools in use, particularly long reach implements or standing below falling branches. Check participants for any snag hazards etc including baggy clothes or loose long hair and correct as needed. Supervise all groups whilst using tools and make regular checks to ensure tools are being used appropriately.	4 (2x2)	
ITEM 2 - Injury from fallen/cut limbs of trees whilst pruning – impacts, cuts, abrasions, lacerations, puncture wounds, fractures, twists, sprains and strains	9 (3x3)	All work party participants to be given an introduction to tree aging processes, and pruning techniques, including assessment of the risk of falling limbs etc All work party participants to be given appropriate risk and H&S briefings and demonstrations. Be very thorough in your assessment of the tree being pruned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identify dead wood, and any signs of decay, both in the branch to be felled and in any branches adjacent, above or below. ● Be aware of the possibility that the branch may crack or split before the cut is finished and may fall or swing into the ladder, other branches or the user. ● Be aware of protruding branches or stubs that could interfere with your work Plan your pruning activity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● If necessary, remove branches that could snag the cut branch before starting work ● Cut the branches in sections to minimise the size of falling pieces and the likelihood of snagging and swinging ● Use eye protection if working below or downwind of cutting operations that generate sawdust 	4 (2x2)	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any person footing the ladder should wear a hard hat / bump hat and eye protection. <p>Use tools appropriately:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carry hand tools up into the tree in belt loops or sheaths Use hand tools in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions/H&S guidance/SWOW (use of power tools is not permitted when working at height) <p>Have a branch hook/second saw available in case the working saw gets jammed</p> <p>Do not work under trees in windy conditions.</p>		
ITEM 3 - Eye injuries arising from falling sawdust and debris whilst pruning	6 (3x2)	<p>Appropriate risk and H&S briefings and demonstrations to be given to all groups carrying out pruning cuts above eye level.</p> <p>Participants advised to wear goggles and stand at a sufficient angle to the saw cut to ensure that they are not directly below the falling branches, saw dust and debris.</p> <p>Eye wash will be available in HH&W kits on site.</p>	4 (2x2)	In the event of sawdust getting in someone's eye, flush the saw dust out with eyewash and advise the patient to attend/take the patient to the doctor's surgery.
ITEM 4 -Danger of falls from ladders – leading to impacts, cuts, abrasions, lacerations, puncture wounds, fractures, twists, sprains and strains	9 (3x3)	<p>Use the pre-activity checklists prior to using ladders and follow the guidance: Safe Ways of Working: Ladders</p> <p>Position ladders carefully to maximise stability and minimise hazards from branches in the canopy.</p> <p>Re-position ladder rather than leaning to reach different areas.</p> <p>No-one to climb more than 5m above ground level.</p>	4 (2x2)	
ITEM 5 - Moving and lifting heavy objects leading to fractures, sprains, back injury or crush injury	4 (2x2)	<p>Avoid designing activities which involve lifting heavy objects</p> <p>Where heavy objects must be moved, provide appropriate instruction and use wheel barrows wherever possible. Wear sturdy footwear.</p>	2 (1x1)	

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<p>ITEM 6 -Fire - risk of burns from lighting, tending and putting out fires.</p>	<p>4 (2x2)</p>	<p>Fire is permitted in designated areas on certain sites only. Appropriate risk and H&S briefings and demonstrations to be given to all groups working with fires. Fires must be lit and supervised by COG volunteers. Fire blankets and a bucket of clean water should be kept by the fire in case of accident or injury.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No plastics or oil based products to be burnt on the fire ● Cinders remaining on the fire should be doused with water 	<p>1 (1x1)</p>	<p>In the event of burns to individuals immerse affected area in cold water and administer First Aid/call emergency services as appropriate.</p>
<p>ITEM 7 -Smoke (arising from activities above) causing stinging of eyes, nose and throat & potential lung damage from smoke inhalation</p>	<p>4 (2x2)</p>	<p>Appropriate risk and H&S briefings and demonstrations to be given to all groups working with fires. Volunteer advised to avoid inhalation of smoke.</p>	<p>2 (1x2)</p>	<p>An advice note including smoke inhalation can be supplied to school party leaders on request.</p>

SUMMARY OF SPECIFIC RISKS

- 1. Misuse of tools - general injuries**
- 2. Falling/cut tree limbs - general injuries**
- 3. Sawdust/debris - eye injuries**
- 4. Falling from ladders - general injuries**
- 5. Moving/lifting heavy objects - fractures/sprains/back injury/crush injury**
- 6. Fire - burns**
- 7. Smoke - eyes/nose/throat/lungs injuries**

SUMMARY OF SPECIFIC SAFETY EQUIPMENT

- 1. Sturdy footwear**
- 2. Gloves**
- 3. Safety glasses**
- 4. Safety hats / bump hats**
- 5. Fire blanket and water for extinguishing fires**
- 6. Wheelbarrows**

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- 1. Activity Risk Assessment: ARA99 - General Site Risks**
- 2. Safe Ways of Working SWOW01 - Use of Ladders**
- 3. Safe Ways of Working SWOW02 - Bonfires**