



BTCV's "Generic Risk Assessments"

See the A4 booklet for full sheets

A summary of Hazards to be considered when completing Risk Assessments.

The TCV RA booklet has full lists of suggested controls for these hazards

Hazards
<p>1 General site safety for conservation work Contact with services - cables and pipes. Contact with hand tools Contact with moving traffic Contact with plant sap Contact with soil borne micro-organisms Food borne illness General manual handling Personal attack Slips trips and falls Weather</p>
<p>2 Fires on site Burning embers and flying debris Ignition of flammable liquids Inhalation of smoke Smoke obscuring other hazards Spread of fire</p>
<p>4 Felling tasks, hedgelaying & scrub work Chemicals used for stump treatment Contact with overhead powerlines Falling trees and flying wood Kickback Repetitive swing movements Thorn injuries Use of chainsaws Use of ropes</p>
<p>6 Tree and other planting tasks Contact with branches and twigs Muscle strains from heavy digging Staking of trees Use of fertiliser and pesticides</p>

Hazards
<p>7 Fencing - post and wire Contact with wood preservative Handling wire and other materials Use of fencing tools</p>
<p>12 Wetland work in ponds, streams and rivers Use of chest waders Contact with Leptospirosis (Weils d.) Contact with sharp or swinging tools Dead animals Deep or fast flowing water Exposure to harmful substances - sewage? Submerged objects Use of small boats Weirs</p>
<p>13 Grassland and heathland work Adders Bracken clearance with brush cutter Bracken clearance with hand tools Fire Ticks - Lymes d. Uneven ground and muddy slopes Use of reciprocating mowers</p>
<p>14 Bird boxes and other small carpentry Contact with electricity Contact with hand tools Contact with treated timber Dust</p>
<p>16 Vehicle use Group transport not currently a WBCS issue as no "group" transport use</p>

Hazards
<p>17 Ladders Carrying tools and materials on ladders Contact with overhead powerlines Defective ladder Over reaching Uneven ground and or unbalanced ladder Unexpected movements of ladder</p>
<p>18 Tool store and workshop work Contact with tools Electricity Falling objects Fire Storage of hazardous substances</p>
<p>19 Scrubcutters and Strimmers Burning hands/arm on hot exhaust Contact with moving blades Exhaust fumes Fatigue and vibration Fire Flying debris Noise Occupational dermatitis</p>
<p>20 Person assessment Lone working etc.</p>
<p>Not currently WBCS activities</p> <p>3 Coppice crafts 5 Pollarding and orchard pruning 8 Footpath construction & drainage 9 Stone pitching 10 Walling 11 Dune and beach work 15 Charcoal burning</p>

<p>1 Introduction</p> <p>2 Risk assessment process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lists the issues and risk assessment process WBCS RA sheets reflect this <p>3 Site Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets out the "need to determine responsibility" owner / agent / activity leader? Generic RA's need to include site specific issues Construction Regulations 1994 may apply generally volunteers not subject to these regs. <p>4 COSHH Control Of Substances Hazardous to Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defined as:- Toxic, harmful, irritant, or corrosive includes harmful micro-organisms, mixtures and other compounds related to work activities that can harm peoples health. COSHH Risk assessment and Controls required <p>COSHH Chemicals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommends that volunteers do not work with COSHH related chemicals If used, training and COSHH sheets should be provided COSHH substances not carried in a closed cab. Containers clearly marked and disposed of safely and correctly <p>COSHH Micro-organisms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lyme disease - bacterial infection from animal tick <ul style="list-style-type: none"> woodlands especially bracken March to June and August to September flu like symptoms and rash minimal skin exposed, check clothes and skin remove or squash tick alighting on skin if tick attaches grip mouth parts and pull with tweezers Tetanus - from soil contact via open wounds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> advise inoculation - consult GP for this Toxocara canis - dog faeces - children vulnerable Weil's disease (leptospirosis) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> bacterial infection from rat urine occurs in contaminated water & wet banks infection through cuts and eyes and mouth symptoms flu like leading to meningitis etc. good hygiene - washing hands etc. consult GP promptly if symptoms appear 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bites & stings - animals, wasps, nettles etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> bites from animals to hospital ASAP stings from plants or insects rarely a problem but look for major allergic reaction - anaphylactic shock - blotchy skin, swelling of face and neck, or impaired breathing and rapid pulse - hospital ASAP Blue green algae <ul style="list-style-type: none"> bloom on water in hot weather - toxic avoid work near algae - wash immediately after contact Bracken <ul style="list-style-type: none"> spores of bracken and associated fungi protect skin and use gloves avoid prolonged working in bracken from July to September mechanical cutting requires a COSHH assessment Thorns and brambles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> can result in infected wounds deal with splinters promptly visit GP if serious pain or swelling occurs use gloves and stout legwear Phytophotodermatitis (PPD) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> dermatitis from contact with plant sap e.g. giant hogweed, wild parsnip, wild angelica check for presence using book or expert DO NOT TOUCH - use gloves etc. <p>5 Environmental hazards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Underground services/overhead lines <ul style="list-style-type: none"> inspect, fix line on paper - not just a verbal OK felling safety zone 15 metres or 2 tree lengths see leaflets on avoiding danger from underground and overhead services - on HSE website Confined spaces <ul style="list-style-type: none"> probably not WBCS task - tunnels, caves etc. Confined Spaces Regulations 1997 apply Dust <ul style="list-style-type: none"> probably not an issue for WBCS tasks cement needs careful handling dust from sanding timber may need controls Volunteer health issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> heat exhaustion and sunburn - precautions hypothermia - recognition and precautions fire smoke avoidance clean water for hand washing & first aid 	<p>6 Volunteer Welfare</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protective clothing and equipment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If required PPE not available then work not to start. Gloves - used with exceptions for tools needing an ungloved hand to ensure good grip Goggles - whenever eyes need protection Helmets - with work occurring above head height Reflective clothing - working near roads and traffic Work boots - steel toecaps if heavy objects moved Ear protection may be needed if power tools used. <p>7 Transport of volunteers, tools & equipment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WBCS - not an issue as group transport not used <p>8 Tools and equipment - handling and use</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Correct use of tools, tools in good condition etc. Chainsaws - BTCV ticket needed for insurance Other machinery referred to - see booklet <p>9 Accidents</p> <p>Reporting of major accidents - RIDDOR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Death, fractures other than fingers and toes Loss of sight or penetration injury to eyes Chemical and hot metal burns to eyes Electric shock Unconsciousness caused by asphyxia Acute illness or loss of consciousness caused by absorption of harmful substances and pathogens by inhalation or ingestion through the skin Injury resulting in hospital admission for more than 24hrs Injury leading to hypothermia or heat induced illness Injury to a member of the public resulting in immediate hospitalisation - would include volunteers <p>Reporting minor accidents - use an accident book</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "minor accident" = first aid box opened inc.plasters <p>First Aid and First Aiders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information on first aid to be provided at briefing FA kit to reflect group size and activity (Walks v tasks) One "Trained" first aider should be on site "Qualified" first aider needed if site is remote <p>10 Capability and vulnerability of volunteers</p> <p>Issues about children & vulnerable adults on activities</p> <p>Appendices Contents of First aid & Welfare kits - listed</p>
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