



West Berkshire
Countryside Society

WBCS – Use of chainsaws

Recommendations and safe practice notes for occasional users

Please read in conjunction with WBCS Risk Assessment and Site Safety Sheets

Based on CS30/CS31 and HSE/AFAG

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<h3>1. Preparing to work</h3>	<h3>3. PPE</h3>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Site check e.g. licences, TPOs? ❑ Site check e.g. ground conditions, cables? ❑ Ensure that a risk assessment has been carried out and the significant findings recorded. ❑ Operators should not normally work alone ❑ Make sure all workers involved in any operation on the worksite are made aware of and comply with the controls identified. ❑ Agree a safe method of operation for the work to be done to ensure that a safe working distance (at least 5 m or 2 tree lengths if felling) can be maintained between workers. ❑ Ensure that a designated and responsible person on site knows the emergency procedure. ❑ In case of emergency, be able to provide the emergency services with adequate information. ❑ Erect warning signs and barriers as necessary - especially if public involved. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Helmet, eye protection, ear defenders, gloves, leg protection and boots – all with chainsaw logo ❑ Personal First Aid carried by operative
<h3>2. Machine checks</h3>	<h3>4. Maintenance</h3>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Stop switch works and is clearly marked ❑ Front hand guard/chain brake, chain catcher and anti-vibration mounts are undamaged and functional ❑ Throttle opens only when the throttle lock is depressed ❑ Fitted with a chain type recommended by the manufacturer and is designed to reduce kickback. ❑ The exhaust system and silencer are in good order. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Checks during the day: - chain tension, cutter sharpness and profile, possible wear and damage.
	<h3>5. Fuelling</h3>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Petrol vapour is invisible and can travel considerable distances from spillage or fuelling sites. ❑ Move away 4 metres from fuelling site before starting ❑ Store fuel to avoid vapour ignition from any source such as fires, people smoking ❑ Use fuel containers specifically designed for chainsaw use that incorporate a non-spill spout. <p>Other AFAG Leaflets</p> <p>AFAG 302 Basic chainsaw felling and manual take down</p> <p>AFAG 303 Snedding</p> <p>AFAG 304 Cross cutting and manual stacking</p> <p>AFAG 306 Chainsaw clearance of windblow (recommends specific training)</p> <p>AFAG 310 Use of winches</p> <p>AFAG 802 Emergency planning</p> <p>INDG Chainsaws at work 317</p> <p>All at :- www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/forindex.htm</p>

Techniques – memory jogger for occasional users

<p>Basic Felling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> check tree for dead branches etc. <input type="checkbox"/> check soil & roots for decay <input type="checkbox"/> check lean - forward/backward etc. <input type="checkbox"/> cut brush up to shoulder high <input type="checkbox"/> check/clear escape routes <input type="checkbox"/> check felling lever to hand <input type="checkbox"/> cut sink/bird mouth 45deg in direction of fall <input type="checkbox"/> felling cut just above sink – 25mm hinge <input type="checkbox"/> use felling lever to topple <input type="checkbox"/> move away as soon as movement starts 	<p>Snedding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> work from left hand side using tree as protection <input type="checkbox"/> walk with bar on opposite side of tree <input type="checkbox"/> using pushing chain mostly <input type="checkbox"/> hold saw close to body - weight on right thigh <input type="checkbox"/> chain brake on if moving branches etc. <input type="checkbox"/> beware of compression and tension in branches <input type="checkbox"/> beware of catching nose on other branches etc. <input type="checkbox"/> roll tree to sned underside <input type="checkbox"/> top of tree cut with proper cross cut stance
<p>Backward leaning tree</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> assess how much timber involved <input type="checkbox"/> cut sink <input type="checkbox"/> cut 2/3rds felling cut <input type="checkbox"/> insert felling lever <input type="checkbox"/> cut remaining 1/3rd with angle cut use felling lever 	<p>Forward leaning tree</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> assess how much timber involved <input type="checkbox"/> cut sink <input type="checkbox"/> if bole has big enough dia. bore through <input type="checkbox"/> leaving hinge and 1/4 hold at the back <input type="checkbox"/> cut hold with angle cut <input type="checkbox"/> watch out for roots breaking out at back
<p>Other felling methods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> step cut on small trees <input type="checkbox"/> use two sinks in triangle for a forwards leaning tree <input type="checkbox"/> use of bore cut to insert felling lever in a sat back tree <input type="checkbox"/> if badly "sat" back fell the other way 12" above <input type="checkbox"/> use of winch to assist <input type="checkbox"/> use of pole lever to move butt of tree <input type="checkbox"/> lifting and pushing action 	<p>Hung tree</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> do NOT cut other tree, climb up etc. <input type="checkbox"/> assess possible roll direction <input type="checkbox"/> cut 80% of hinge opposite side from roll <input type="checkbox"/> use felling lever cant hook to roll the tree push at chest height <input type="checkbox"/> or roll using a pole as a lever <input type="checkbox"/> exit as soon as roll starts <input type="checkbox"/> do not cut lengths off the bottom
<p>Cross cutting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 5 metres between operators <input type="checkbox"/> cut compression side first <input type="checkbox"/> if cutting on ground cut 80% then roll <input type="checkbox"/> on sloping ground work above log 	<p>Useful videos:-</p> <p>Stihl http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MUW7JNk7zVw</p> <p>Husqvana http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Do5DfkHBhtg</p>

PUWER 98 (Provision and Use of Working Equipment Regulations 1998)

Extract from - Agriculture Information Sheet No 27 Regulation 9 Training applying to **Chainsaws**.

From 5 December 1998 anyone working with chainsaws on or in trees is expected to hold a certificate of competence or national competence award relevant to the work they undertake, with one exception. The exception is on agricultural holdings where the work is done as part of agricultural operations (e.g. hedging, clearing fallen trees, pruning trees to maintain clearance for machines etc) and is done by the occupier or an employee and they have used a chainsaw before 5 December 1998.