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WEEDKILLER SPRAYING RISK ASSESSMENT (TFWG)

Document Control

Approved on behalf of the Parish Council	
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Change history.

Version:	Date:	Reason for Change
V1 02.05.2024 (3 pages)	02.05.2024	First Version

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 – TFWG Members					
Site Location: Turnpike Field – all areas					
Description of hazard	Severity of Hazard (As) 1-5	Probability of Hazard (B) 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 areas are accessible, that no foreseen obstructions exist such as fallen branches, 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 Manufacturer's 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 is 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	Report significant obstacles and avoid especially difficult to access areas

				during pre-work checks of the site. Wear stout footwear	
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 the general public and near plants and gardens owned by residents
Cleaning of Pre-pressurised Equipment	2	1	2	Follow equipment manufacturer's instructions on cleaning. Wear gloves and eye protection. Take special care when releasing pressure from pressure vessel.	Do not dispose of excess diluted weedkiller into public drains
Lone Working, lack of communication, with restricted reporting or assistance in emergency situations (injury to operator or others)	3	2	6	Advise Chair of TFWG/Parish Clerk when and where work is to be done. Advise when work is completed.	Members are advised to carry a mobile phone if working alone or ensure contact can be made when the need arises