

| SWS FORESTRY HAZARD IDENTIFICATION & RISK ASSESSMENT – Field Based | | | |
|--|--|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| NAME: | SWS Forestry Ltd | PERSONS RESPONSIBLE: | Foresters - See Safety Statement |
| DATE: | July 2020 | | Padraig Egan |
| ADDRESS: | Gate Lodge, West Cork Technology Park, Clonakilty, Co. Cork. | | |

| S = Severity of Risk | L = Likelihood of Risk occurring | S X L = Severity X Likelihood (Risk) |
|---|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 = Low, slight injury | 1 = Low | 1,2,3 = Low |
| 2 = Medium, significant injury | 2 = Medium | 4,5,6 = Medium |
| 3 = High, possible fatality or permanent injury | 3 = High | 7,8,9 = High |

| Risk Before Control Measures | | S | L | S x L | Risk |
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| HAZARD | RISK | CONTROL MEASURES | | | |
| COVID-19 | Catching or transmitting the virus | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay at home if feeling unwell, diagnosed with COVID-19 or awaiting a test or results. Maintain social distancing when travelling to and working on sites. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Travel separately to sites; Maintain social distancing of at least 2m distance from other workers; Face coverings should be worn when social distancing of 2m cannot be adhered to. Rest and food breaks should be taken at different times to avoid close contact with each other; There should be no sharing of equipment or food/drink so as to avoid cross contamination; Water and soap and/or hand sanitiser must be available at all times to all workers on site; Where possible, avoid talking to forest managers and other workers on site. Instructions/queries should be dealt with over the phone or by email where possible. Keep a record of who you have been in contact with. | | | |
| Risk After Control Measures | | S | L | S x L | Risk |
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| Possible Hiring Of Lifting Equipment | Falling Objects Personal Injury | In Accordance with the General Applications Regulations 2007-2016, SI no 299, Regulation No 59, any person who hires out lifting equipment for use shall comply with the duties set out in it Reg No 52 and 54 of the Act: Examination and Testing of Lifting Equipment Keeping records and registers of Lifting Equipment. | | | |
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| HAZARD | RISK | CONTROL MEASURES | | | |
| Lack of First Aid Equipment | Worsening of condition. Onset of infection, fatality, permanent injury / illness. | Adequate first aid kits to be provided and filled to HSA guidelines. They will be regularly checked and refilled by designated person. All employees to carry first aid kits in company vehicles. | | | |
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| Chainsaws which may be used by Foresters on occasions to clear paths etc. | Severe Laceration. Death. Amputation. Fall from height. Chain saw kick back. Fire. Vibration. Back injury Sprain / strain. | <p>Use appropriate P.P.E.:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safety Helmet with visor and ear defenders. Gloves with protective guarding on the back of the left hand. Leg and body protection incorporating clogging material. Safety boots with protective guarding and good grip is essential. Non-snap outer clothing. <p>Precautions to be taken when refueling the chainsaw as exhaust could be hot. Keep chain tight and sharpened.</p> <p>Saw must have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clearly marked positive on / off switch. Chain brake incorporating front hand guard. Safety (dead hand) throttle. Chain catcher. Rear hand guard. Anti-vibration system. Exhaust system to direct fumes away from the operator. Chain cover for transportation. Adequate tool kit for corrective and preventative maintenance. <p>Do not use the saw when alone. Do not use the saw above shoulder height or when off balance. Ensure other people are at least 2 saw lengths away from the saw when in operation. Watch out for falling branches. Switch off the engine when moving to another location or when not in use. Chain saw to be checked and maintained regularly to manufacturers requirements to include chain catcher, silencer, guide bar, drive sprocket and chain links, side plate, front and rear hand guards and anti-vibration mountings. Before use, check the chain is properly tensioned and sharpened to the manufacturer's specifications. Also check the stop switch works, all nuts, screws etc. are tight, the chain brake functions correctly, and that it isn't possible to squeeze the throttle trigger unless the throttle trigger lock out is pressed. Only trained and certified operator to use a chain saw.</p> | | | |
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| High Voltage Cables crossing forestry sites | Fatal electrocution. Severe burns. Breathing or heart failure. | <p>Foresters to identify all high voltage power lines crossing sites. Overhead lines must be protected by guards, barriers or 'goal posts' and safety warning signs, where necessary, to prevent danger. All high vehicles such as harvesters, excavators etc. must be accompanied by a responsible employee where working in the vicinity of overhead power lines or obstructions. Please follow the ESB guidance in event of working in vicinity of cables when cutting trees, branches etc.</p> | | | |
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| Noise created by contractors while harvesting etc | Hearing impairment. Deafness. Tinnitus. Loss of concentration and annoyance leading to work place accidents and / or loss of production. | <p>SWS Forestry Ltd. is aware that equipment such as chainsaws, etc. are over the 2nd Action Level. Staff have been advised of this. It is not anticipated that any member of our staff are exposed to such a dose that they will either daily or weekly require monitoring.</p> <p>We will consult with staff and provide training where necessary.</p> <p>Signpost all excessively loud equipment, machinery, areas and processes which exceed the upper exposure action level of 85dB(A) and the lower exposure action level of 80dB(A). Reduce the worker exposure levels by reducing the amount of time spent near sources of excessive noise.</p> <p>Hearing protective equipment must be provided if deemed necessary, as per the Noise Regulations.</p> <p>Ensure hearing protection is worn for short-term noise exposures (this should also be a last resort).</p> <p>Remove other people from such noisy areas, unless their presence is required. They must wear hearing protection whilst in such areas.</p> | | | |
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| Manual Handling tasks | Back, Neck, Shoulder Injury. Prolapsed Disk. Permanent Injury. Trip /Fall. Hit Against. Dropped Object. | <p>In Accordance with the General Application Regulations 2007-2016. No 69, an employer must ensure that he/she takes appropriate organisational measures, or use the appropriate means, in particular mechanical equipment, to avoid the need for the manual handling of loads. Minimise all manual-handling tasks where possible.</p> <p>Provide suitable mechanical handling equipment such as teleporters, track mounted cranes etc. Ensure these are used.</p> <p>Assess all weights being lifted per the Safety, Health and Welfare (General Applications) Regulations 2007-2016 and where necessary reduce these to acceptable levels.</p> <p>Work locations to be designed to eliminate over-reaching.</p> <p>Provide Manual Handling training to all staff.</p> <p>Personal Protective Equipment including gloves to be provided and used.</p> | | | |
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| Public accessibility to work area on site | Serious personal injury. Fatality. Slips, trips, falls - over goods, materials, rough terrain, into excavations, manholes, sewers or from heights. Electrocution. Theft. | Warning signs to be posted to highlight the dangers involved. All access points to be closed / barricaded to prevent access to unauthorised persons. Entrance to be fully secured each evening / end of each work shift. Only authorised personnel allowed on site, signs to be posted. Responsible person to check site boundaries on a regular basis. Loose equipment to be removed outside of working hours. | | | |
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| Contractors to SWS Forestry Ltd | Serious personal injury. | All contractors to provide adequate safety statements & review SWS Forestry's Safety Statement. The Foresters must monitor the ongoing activities of Sub-Contractors. Risk Assessment and map for each site to be given to each contractor. A Site Safety Plan by the Sub-Contractor must be provided to SWS Forestry Ltd. Preparation of a Method Statement for each necessary job by the Sub- Contractor to be provided to SWS Forestry Ltd. Ensure that all equipment are inspected regularly and results recorded - on GA1 & GA2 forms. Proper isolation of areas being planted or harvested. Contractors to erect adequate safety signage. | | | |
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| Poor Hand Hygiene | Skin complaints, dermatitis, eczema. Ingestion of chemicals. Biological agents, toxins, bacteria and viruses. | Hand hygiene is essential. The hands are the most likely part of the body to come into contact with harmful substances. Wash hands before eating or smoking. Suitable gloves should be worn when handling potentially hazardous materials. In some cases, the use of an appropriate barrier cream might be appropriate. Dirty hands should be cleaned using proper skin cleansing products. Do not clean hands with petrol, white spirits, thinners, turpentine etc. Employees working on site to bring water and/or hand gel for hand washing. | | | |
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| Mobile Phones | Accident with other road users. Falls from Ladders. Unsafe use of machines (MEWP) | If operating a vehicle and you are not equipped with a hands free apparatus, and you need to use a mobile phone for work related calls you must: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Stop driving operations. ➤ Park in a safe area away from bends or narrow / steep roads and ensure your handbrake is on. ➤ Switch on the hazard warning lights. ➤ Take / make your work related phone call. DO: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Carry- a mobile phone if working alone in a remote area. ➤ Carry- a mobile phone if you are concerned about your safety going to or from work. ➤ Ensure you have quick and effective communications available for emergency situations. ➤ Switch your phone off when operating 'Plant Machinery' or dangerous items of equipment. ➤ Ensure you are standing in a safe area before answering a call. ➤ Remember using a mobile phone 'hands free kit' still increases the risk of an accident. | | | |
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| Forest Fires | Burns. Fume inhalation. Serious personal injury. Loss of lives. Damage/Destruction of buildings and property. Environmental damage Explosion. | No Smoking policy in force. Proper evacuation procedure for the site to be in place and checked regularly. Assembly point to be identified for each plantation. Workers to proceed to a safe location in the event of a fire. Emergency services to be called immediately. | | | |
| Risk After Control Measures | | S | L | S x L | Risk |
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| Animals: Rats /mice. Wasps /bees. Birds. Small animals. Deer/stock Dogs. Ticks | Leptospirosis (Weil's Disease) Stings. Histoplasmosis (droppings). Sudden fright/falls. Bites. Lyme Disease | <p>When working near water or where rats have been seen, care to be taken to disinfect all cuts and cover them with waterproof plasters. See Hand Hygiene. Be aware that sudden movements of birds or small animals can cause a reflex action in the worker, which may overbalance them. Check for signs of nests, birds or other small animals. Practice caution if dogs or deer are present.</p> <p>Always consult with the local farmer to assess if there are any dangerous animals such as a bull or cows with calves in the vicinity you will be working in.</p> <p>Wear long sleeved t-shirts and trousers when on site; tuck trousers into socks/boots and tuck shirts into trousers to minimise the chance of ticks getting to exposed skin. Once home check your entire body for ticks. Important areas to check are behind the ears, inside the outer ear, under the arms, behind knees, the trunk of the body and the scalp.</p> | | | |
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| Weather <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sun • Wind • Rain • Ice/snow | Sun burn. Sunstroke. Skin cancer. Fall from height. Slip/fall. Bodily injury. Hit by object. Hypothermia. | <p>In sunny weather, cover the back of the neck and keep a shirt on at all times. Avoid sunburn and sun stroke where possible by keeping covered and wearing a high factor sun block.</p> <p>Be aware that strong winds or gusts can overbalance a person. Do not work in mature forestry sites during high winds.</p> <p>Don't work in heavy rain unless adequately protected.</p> <p>Be prepared for slippery conditions in icy weather. Salt or grit should be used where necessary.</p> | | | |
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| Lack of adequate Emergency procedures | Fire. Injury. Illness. Attack. | <p>Develop an emergency procedure to deal with these risks and this is to be clearly conveyed to all site workers.</p> <p>Check emergency procedures regularly and where necessary update them.</p> <p>Foresters to identify a suitable location on site for assembly in the event of an emergency.</p> <p>Mobile phones to be carried at all times.</p> <p>Emergency contact numbers to be available.</p> | | | |
| Risk After Control Measures | | S | L | S x L | Risk |
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| Personal Protective Equipment not being used | Impact from flying Particles. Head injury. Foot injury. Falls from height. Burns or skin irritation etc. | All necessary Personal Protective Equipment to be provided and used where required. Safety Signs to be put up to highlight this. | | | |
| Risk After Control Measures | | S | L | S x L | Risk |
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| Lone Working | Serious personal injury. Fatalities. | <p>Lone working occurs when a worker is working where there are no other personnel present. We will endeavour to minimise lone working to as little as possible.</p> <p>It is inevitable it will occur though due to the nature of our work.</p> <p>If our staff identify a site is unsafe for lone working they may request a presence from management.</p> <p>Where lone working is required our staff shall have two local contact numbers on speed dial to be used in the event of an emergency.</p> <p>Our personnel shall phone or text their supervisor when they are leaving the site so that we are assured of their safety.</p> <p>If an operator is feeling unwell, he/ she should report this to the Supervisor before starting work.</p> <p>People who have illnesses such as Diabetes, Epilepsy, Cardiac problems Angina or on medication should report this to their Supervisor.</p> <p>The speed dials number for local management and our supervisor is to be pre-programmed in your mobile phone.</p> <p>SWS to investigate the possibility of personal locator beacons provided to their forestry staff.</p> | | | |
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| Chemicals used for spraying etc. | Eye injury / loss. Skin infection. Burns. Inhalation. Ingestion with food. Worker chemical exposure levels exceeded. Injury to pregnant employees / unborn / new-born. Fire. Explosion. Serious personal injury. Fatalities. | Safety Data Sheets to be obtained for all chemicals and strictly followed. Copies to be available in case of an emergency. Evaluation of chemicals at purchasing stage to take place. Proper chemical inventory / records to be kept. Containers to be properly labeled (hazard signs). Safe storage and dispensing of chemicals to be practiced. Follow manufacturer's requirements for handling, mixing, storage and first aid etc. Personal Protective Equipment to be provided and used – gloves, mask, coveralls – as required by manufacturer's guidelines. Regular (annual) medical checks for personnel who work with chemicals to take place where indicated as necessary by risk assessment. Training to be provided for staff working with chemicals. Best possible hygiene procedures to be in place and enforced by Management. Sources of flame / ignition to be eliminated where flammable materials are used and / or stored. Spillage's to be immediately dealt with using the appropriate PPE. | | | |
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| Quad Bikes | Mechanical failure, breakdown. Falling / spilling objects. Accident / serious personal injury. Injury / fatality to other road / site users. | Quad Bikes to be regularly serviced and maintained. Brakes, lighting, exhaust and tyres to be checked weekly and kept in good order. Quad bikes to be driven by trained drivers only. Quad bikes are never to be driven with dangerous defects or damage. Report any damage or defects found to your Supervisor. | | | |
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| Storage Area for timber and materials in all forestry locations | Head injury. Serious Personal Injury. Public access. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure safe storage areas for all goods. Keep heaviest goods at ground or low level. Don't overload timber piles or pallets etc. Ensure the timber piles are properly secured, chocked to the ground to prevent them from rolling. Dangerous materials such as sprays to be stored in lockable containers. Access to the storage area to be secured when not in use. | | | |
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| Receiving deliveries at plantations | Head injury. Serious Personal Injury. Public access. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before loading/unloading the vehicle, make sure that the route from the vehicle to the storage location is as clear as possible. • Wherever practicable and appropriate use mechanical lifting equipment. • Ensure that a full appreciation of the size, characteristics and weight of the load is made prior to starting operations. • Wear protective gloves, safety boots with steel toecaps and hi visibility clothing. • Ensure the task is supervised and controlled by a competent person. • Ensure that the vehicle being loaded/unloaded cannot be inadvertently moved while the operation is taking place (by removing keys for example) • Ensure safe storage areas for all goods. • Don't overload timber piles or pallets etc • Ensure the timber piles are properly secured, chocked to the ground to prevent them from rolling. • Dangerous materials such as sprays to be stored in lockable containers. • Access to the storage area to be secured when not in use. | | | |
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| Fencing and barb wire | Eye injury / loss. Cuts/tears to skin. Entanglement. Head injury / death. Back injury. Slips, trips or falls. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Posts and wire should be transported to the specific location on site by quad bike and trailer or by van or other such vehicle to minimize manual handling of the wire rolls. • The area should be checked prior to delivery for drains, deep ditches or broken or uneven ground. • When opening posts from a bundle, the operator will position themselves on the high hill side of the posts so as the posts will not roll on top of them. A sharp cutting tool will be used and operators are to be careful of flying straps. • When posts are been driven: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The operators are to stand clear of the excavator (minimum 15m away), - The driver of the excavator should always know your position, stand back and be seen. • The wire will be unrolled by two operatives along the line and pulled with a wire puller. • The following PPE will be used: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hi visibility jacket, - Safety Helmet, - Eye protection, - Safety footwear, - Protective gloves, - Non-snag outer clothing. • Distance of 15m to be maintained between machine and pedestrians/other operatives. • Unless tending to maintenance of the fence, individuals should keep a safe distance from the barb wire so as not to injure themselves. • Fences should not be climbed in order to access site. | | | |
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