

Safe Work Method Statement (SWMS)

Task: Use of Battery-Operated Chainsaw Pole Pruner
Tool/Equipment: Battery-Operated Pole Pruner / Pole Chainsaw
Location: Due North Gardens
Date: 22nd May 2025

1. PPE Requirements

- Hat for head protection
- Safety glasses or mesh visor
- Cut-resistant gloves
- Long-sleeved shirt and long pants (preferably chainsaw-protective clothing)
- Steel-capped safety boots
- Hearing protection
- High-visibility vest or shirt

2. Training and Competency

- Operator must be trained and competent in the use of pole pruners
- Understand the manufacturer’s instructions and this SWMS
- Completion of relevant site induction
- Awareness of surrounding hazards (especially electrical)

3. Risk Assessment Summary

Hazard	Potential Harm	Control Measures
Contact with moving chain	Lacerations or amputation	Keep hands away from chain, use safety lock, never bypass safety features
Falling branches	Head or upper body injury	Wear helmet, plan cuts carefully, stay clear of drop zone
Tool kickback or recoil	Upper body or face injury	Maintain firm grip, stand in stable position, don’t cut above shoulder height
Falling from height	Injury from unstable footing	Work from ground level only or use approved platforms – no ladders

Hazard	Potential Harm	Control Measures
Electric shock (near power lines)	Electrocution or burns	Keep clear of power lines, follow "No Go Zone" regulations
Manual handling	Sprains, strains	Use correct lifting technique, don't overreach
Flying debris	Eye injury	Wear safety glasses or face shield
Battery hazards	Fire or chemical burns	Use only manufacturer-approved chargers, inspect for damage, store safely

4. Safe Work Procedures

1. Preparation

- Inspect the pole pruner: check battery charge, bar oil level, chain tension, safety switches
- Confirm the work area is clear of hazards and people
- Identify drop zones and ensure no one is standing underneath branches
- Review weather conditions – avoid work in high winds or wet conditions
- Review tree for signs of decay or instability

2. Operation

- Attach and secure battery after inspection is complete
- Maintain a stable, balanced stance
- Extend the pole only as far as necessary – avoid overreaching
- Start saw at least 3 meters away from people
- Cut branches in sections (if needed) to control fall
- Allow the chain to stop before setting the tool down

3. During Work

- Maintain awareness of your surroundings at all times
- Do not attempt to catch falling branches
- If tool jams or kicks back, release trigger immediately and reposition
- Take breaks to prevent fatigue

4. Finishing Up

- Switch off and remove battery before cleaning or storing
- Inspect and clean the chain/bar, check for damage

- Store tool and battery in a dry, cool place
 - Report faults or incidents to supervisor
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5. Emergency Procedures

- **First Aid:** Immediately treat any cuts or eye injuries. Apply pressure to bleeding wounds.
 - **Incident Response:** Notify supervisor and complete incident report
 - **Electric Shock (if contact occurs):** Call emergency services (000), do not touch the victim until power is isolated
 - Ensure first aid kit and trained first aider are available on site
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6. Approval and Acknowledgement

Name Position Signature Date

Andrew Cottam. Manager, AC, 22nd May 2025