

Battery-Operated Hedge Trimmer Use in the Community



Activity Use of a battery-operated hedge trimmer in a public/community setting
Location Great Blakenham
Date July 2025
Review Date July 2026

1. Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment

Hazard	Persons at Risk	Potential Harm	Initial Risk Level	Control Measures	Residual Risk
Contact with moving blade	Operator, bystanders	Cuts, lacerations, amputation	High	- Use only trained operators- Wear gloves and long sleeves- Use blade guard when not in use- Keep bystanders at safe distance	Low
Flying debris (branches, stones)	Operator, bystanders	Eye injury, minor cuts	Medium	- Wear safety goggles/face shield- Check area for debris before starting- Create exclusion zone	Low
Noise exposure	Operator, nearby residents	Hearing damage, disturbance	Low	- Use ear protection- Operate during reasonable hours- Inform community beforehand	Very Low
Manual handling (lifting, holding trimmer)	Operator	Back/shoulder strain, fatigue	Medium	- Use ergonomically designed tools- Take breaks regularly- Rotate tasks	Low
Battery fault (overheating, short circuit)	Operator	Burns, fire, explosion	Low	- Use manufacturer-approved batteries only- Inspect battery before use- Do not expose to wet conditions	Very Low
Slips/trips/falls	Operator	Sprains, fractures	Medium	- Check ground conditions before use- Wear appropriate footwear- Keep cables/tools organized	Low
Environmental harm (wildlife disturbance)	Community/nature	Disruption to habitat	Low	- Schedule work outside nesting seasons- Avoid trimming flowering/fruiting plants unnecessarily	Very Low

2. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Required

- Safety goggles or face shield
 - Protective gloves
 - Long-sleeved clothing
 - Sturdy footwear (non-slip)
 - Hearing protection (if needed)
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3. Emergency Procedures

- **First Aid:** Ensure a first aid kit is available; know who the trained first aider is
 - **Incident Reporting:** Report all accidents or near misses to supervisor/committee
 - **Fire Safety:** Have access to a fire extinguisher; know how to safely disconnect/remove battery
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. Additional Notes

- Always read and follow the manufacturer's operating instructions.
- Do not operate in poor weather (rain, high winds).
- Ensure community members (especially children and pets) are kept at a safe distance during operation.