



SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENT – Operating a Woodchipper

WORK ACTIVITY		OPERATING A WOODCHIPPER		
Qualifications and or Competencies Required	FWP HAR2206 - Operate a mobile chipper/mulcher	Personal Protective Equipment Required	Mandatory	Safety Helmet, Protective Clothing, Safety Footwear, Leather Work Gloves; with Short Cuffs, Eye Protection, Hearing Protection.
	TLID1001 - Shift materials safely using manual handling methods CPC CWHS1001 - Prepare to work safely in the construction industry		Others	High Visibility Clothing
Reference Documents		Plant / Equipment Required		
Manufacturer's Operating Manual for Relevant Chipper		Wood Chipper Wood Chip Collection Vehicle		
ALWAYS REFER TO ADDITIONAL SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE TASK / ACTIVITY BEING PERFORMED.				
WORK STEPS	HAZARDS	WHAT CAN GO WRONG?	IDENTIFIED CONTROLS REQUIRED	
Pre-Start Machine Checks	Damaged Equipment: Oil /Fuel Leaks	Failure to identify damaged components Cuts from handling covers Slip on leaking fluids	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inspect equipment as per manufacturer's operating instructions Check guarding / signage is serviceable Repair leaks where possible, prior to machine operation 	



Check Closed and Secure all Inspection Covers / Guards	Unsecured /Damaged Covers	Contact with exposed moving components Cuts from handling damaged covers / guards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure all covers / guarding devices are in correct position prior to starting machine • Wear leather work gloves when handling covers and guards
Check Drive Mechanism Disengaged	Overloaded Starting Equipment	Equipment damage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physically check position of drive mechanism to ensure disengaged prior to starting machine • Follow manufacturer's instructions to ensure correct operation
Start Chipper and Warm Engine	Failure to Warm Engine Sufficiently	Possible equipment failure Increased exhaust discharges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warm up machine as per manufacturer's operating instructions
	Faulty or Worn Mechanical Components	Equipment failure Oil / fuel leaks develop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure guarding is still in correct operating position after starting • Listen for strange noises generated in machine • Shut down machine where mechanical problems or uncontrollable fuel / oil leaks exist
	Engine Noise	Hearing damaged	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear hearing protection
Engage Drive Mechanism and Adjust RPM to	Loose Particles / Flying Debris	Eye injury Cuts and abrasions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear approved safety glasses / goggles to protect eyes • Note: Preference is to wear goggles to minimise exposure / entry of dust into eyes
	Moving / Rotating Parts	Operator caught / pulled into moving equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warn others in vicinity of machine prior to engaging drive mechanism • Maintain safe working clearances to moving equipment



Operating Speed	Excessive Noise when Operating	Hearing damaged	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear hearing protection
	Incorrect Operation	Equipment damage / failure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure manufacturer's operating instructions are followed at all times
Check Emergency Controls Operate Correctly	Inoperative Emergency Controls	Unable to control machine in an emergency Operator caught / pulled into moving equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check operation of emergency controls by following manufacturer's operating instructions • Shut down machine where controls do not operate correctly
WORK STEPS	HAZARDS	WHAT CAN GO WRONG?	IDENTIFIED CONTROLS REQUIRED
Prepare Material for Chipping	Noxious Vegetation	Spread of noxious vegetation through wood chips/mulch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not chip noxious trees or vegetation • Consult with local shire councils to determine what should not be chipped
	Manual Handling of Branch or Limb	Sprains and Strains Back Injury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stretch, warm up muscles prior to starting work activity • Cut braches / limbs into manageable lengths • Get assistance when lifting or dragging large / heavy limbs
	Debris around Operator	Create trip hazards / obstructions for operator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove clutter / debris regularly • Maintain clear access to and from machine
	Metallic Objects: e.g. Nails, Wire	Object fouling machine Equipment damage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check material for metal objects prior to feeding into chipper
Commence Chipping	Loose Clothing / Jewellery	Entanglement in branches Pulled into chipper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure no loose clothing • Shirt tucked in and sleeves buttoned



Operation			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear high-visibility shirt in preference to vest • Remove all dress rings, watches, neck chains, etc., where possible
	Machine Overload	Block or foul machine Equipment damage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow manufacturer's operating instructions for correct feed rate
	Feeding Material into Chipper	Struck by twisting branch or Limb Branch whipping Cuts/abrasions from thorns, etc. Caught by moving limb / material	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not place any part of the body into the feed chute area when the chipper is in operation. • Ensure butt end of branches are fed into chipper first. • Step away from the feed chute once the branch engages onto feed roller • Wear leather gloves with short cuffs, eg. Riggers' Gloves
	Wood Dust / Particles	Injuries to people at / near worksite Eye injuries Cuts / abrasions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure all unauthorised persons are clear of worksite • Wear approved safety glasses / goggles to protect eyes Note: Preference is to wear goggles to minimise exposure / entry of dust into eyes • Feed chipper from a side position • Turn away from the feed chute once the branch engages onto feed roller
	Wood Chips not going into Truck	Injuries to people at / near worksite Debris deposited at worksite	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure all unauthorised persons are clear of worksite • Ensure truck is positioned correctly to collect wood chips • Stop chipping process when truck is moved or out of position to adequately collect wood chips
	Wood Chips Directed to Ground	Persons struck by flying wood chips	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure all unauthorised persons are clear of worksite • Implement pedestrian controls where required • Limit wood chip spray travel to a minimum
	Vehicular Traffic	Struck by vehicle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feed chipper from kerbside where possible • Adhere to Traffic Control Plan



	Manual Handling of Branch or Limb	Sprains and Strains Back Injury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stretch, warm up muscles prior to starting work activity • Cut braches / limbs into manageable lengths • Get assistance when lifting or dragging large / heavy limbs
	Machine Noise	Hearing damaged	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear hearing protection
Machine Shut Down	Incorrect Shut Down Process	Possible equipment damage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower engine revs, disengage drive mechanism • Idle engine for appropriate cool down period and turn off • Follow manufacturer's operating instruction for correct shut down procedure