

Safety and Assurance Bulletin



Site Safe

When you leave site at the end of the day, how do you leave it? What checks do you make before leaving? I expect you check the site store, the fuel storage, and that the welfare unit and machines are all locked up from a security point of view, but what about safety risks?

■ We work in sectors that have inherent risks in the equipment and working methods we employ. Before leaving site we must make sure that machinery and work are left in a safe condition.

The level of precautions taken must be proportionate to the risk. If the site is next to public footpaths or where there is significant public access then precautions must take this in to account.

Don't forget to consider:

- Are all site boundary fences secure and gates locked?
- Are site boundary fences stable, e.g. braced or supported?
- Are excavations securely fenced and/or covered?
- Have materials been stored in such a way to prevent toppling over?
- Is an access to height controlled?
- Are hung up trees made safe, or where appropriate taped off and signed?
- Have power sources been isolated?
- Are part finished works left in safe condition?
- Is machinery locked and secured?
- Are hazardous substance locked away?



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FISA Tree Shears and Grapple Saws

A subgroup of the FISA Plant and Equipment Group are currently working on a new guide for the use of tree shears and grapple saws.

■ Through the work of the group some issues have been highlighted that need to be communicated ahead of the full guide. A Safety Alert has been produced so owners and operators of these pieces of equipment can ensure they are compliant with certain requirements.

Primarily the two main issues are the potential for Chainshot from a Grapple Saw and the application of LOLER regulations. The Alert gives more information and can be found here <https://ukfisa.com/Safety/Safety-Alerts/tree-shearsgrapple-saws>



Tree Shears and Grapple Saws



FISA and ARB Association are currently producing a new safety guide 608 relating to Tree Shears and Grapple Saws. It has become evident that we need to alert the industry to some potential issues that need to be taken into immediate operational consideration.

Grapple Saws - Chain shot

Chain shot is the high velocity separation and ejection of a piece or pieces of cutting chain from the end of a broken chain in mechanised felling of timber. Chain shot exposes both machine operators and bystanders to a risk of serious injury or death. Chain shot typically occurs near the drive end of the cutting system but can also come from the bar tip area.

- Confirm with Manufacturer if the Grapple Saw requires chain shot protective device/guard to be fitted – as required by BS EN ISO11850 2011 (amended 2016) Machinery for Forestry: General Safety Requirements Section 4.3.2.3. Ensure tested to BS11837-2011 chain shot guarding systems.*Where manufacturer is awaiting testing, please apply chain shot considerations into your risk assessment as explained in [Chain shot what is the risk*](#)
- Ensure chain, saw bar & drive sprockets are in good condition and wear is within allowable limits. Ensure that chains are maintained as per manufacturers' recommendations.
- Ensure you use the correct chain lubrication and flow rates.
- Ensure your machine settings are correct. An over-speeding chain or excessive bar force increases your chances of chain shot.
- **Your machine must be fitted with a protective screen; the screen must be tested to BS ISO 21876.**
- Be aware of chain shot risk zones – do not cut with front or back of saw box pointing towards the operator.

Tree Shears / Grapple Saws – Risk Zones

You should apply and adopt the risk zone recommended by the Original Equipment Manufacturer of your Grapple Saw / Tree Shear in their operational manual.

In all cases it is highly advisable that a Site Specific Risk Assessment is carried out taking into consideration risk zones, particularly in urban settings, and consideration of landing zones and machine stability, before operations commence. Your risk assessment must detail how you will take reasonable steps to undertake the work safely. When planning the operation other key considerations must include the base machine stability and 'load capacity' of both the cutting head and the base machine. It is advisable that all users contact the equipment manufacturers for guidance on the safety of the equipment. You must consider relevant PUWER / LOLER / ACOP regulations.

I'm A Celebrity – Get Them Out Of Here!

'Police investigating I'm A Celebrity show in North Wales' was a recent headline when a BBC Springwatch presenter questioned the use of bugs and insects by the Show and the potential for their release into the Welsh countryside.

■ The Show was taking place at a location close to an SSSI and ancient woodland site.

It was confirmed by the Show that all insects were 'non-invasive species' only ever released in a contained area and collected immediately after the filming.

However, it was an important point and one highlighted this month in INVASIVE NON-NATIVE SPECIES WEEK 2021.

The week runs from May 24th and more information can be found at <http://www.nonnativespecies.org/> or Twitter: @InvasiveSp

Invasive non-native species harm the environment and wildlife, are costly to manage and pose a risk to our health and way of life.

What are invasive non-native species?

A non-native species is one which is transported from its native range to a new region with assistance of humans. Invasive non-natives are those that have a harmful impact.

How many are there?

Around 2000 non-native plants and animals have been introduced to the UK from all over the world.

Most non-natives are harmless but around 10-15% of these have become invasive.



There has been a dramatic increase in numbers over recent years with ten new species becoming established in 2017. Invasive species are easily spread, for example Japanese Knotweed spreads so rapidly not only through its root system but because any fragment of its stem or root will grow to form a new plant. This makes it very difficult to get rid of.

What are the problems?

They have a range of environmental, economic, health and social impacts in Britain.

Harm to the Environment: Worldwide they are one of the greatest threats to biodiversity, even more so than pollution. In Britain they threaten the survival of native wildlife, spread harmful diseases and damage our natural ecosystems. For example Japanese knotweed will grow in any soil no matter how poor and quickly invades the spaces shading out native plants.



INVASIVE SPECIES WEEK

continued

I'm A Celebrity – Get Them Out Of Here! (continued)

Economic impact: Problems caused by these species cost at least £1.7 billion every year in Britain. Costs include damage to infrastructure and losses to production. For example crops including forestry and agricultural.

Health and social impacts: They can also affect our health and the way we live. Some species such as Floating Pennywort make flooding worse. Others are a health hazard such as Giant Hogweed, which causes skin burns, and Oak Processionary Moth which causes skin irritation and respiratory problems.

Legal responsibilities

Non-native species legislation in England, Scotland and Wales prohibit the spread of non-native species and require landowners to manage and dispose of non-native species in order to prevent spread.

What can we do?

- Prevent them from establishing. Take precautions to prevent spread from site to site.
- Detect and rapidly respond if they are found on our sites.
- Where they have become established plan to manage and control to prevent spread and eradicate.

Remember:

- **Be Aware and Report:** You should be advised as part of any site work instruction if there are invasive non-native species on site and what precautions are needed.
- If you come across any that haven't been identified, make sure you report to the Tilhill Forestry Manager.

Test your knowledge and understanding by visiting: www.nonnativespecies.org/elearning/ and sign up for some of the e-learning modules.



Above: American Skunk Cabbage.



Above: Himalayan Balsam



Above: Giant Hogweed

What did happen to all those bugs and creepy crawlies from I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here?

Just in case anyone was wondering, the Show maintained the insects were used only in contained areas, were collected immediately after filming and donated to local wildlife sanctuaries, trusts and zoos for feed after the filming. So they did Get them out of There!

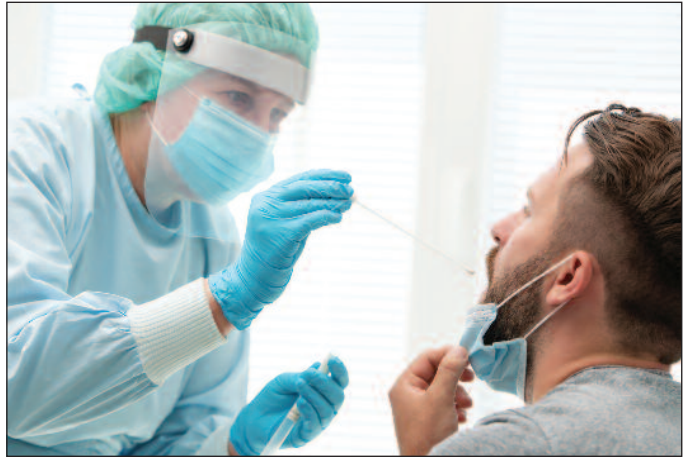
Covid-19

Infection rates across England, Scotland and Wales have continued to fall, with the governments reducing restrictions as they go.

■ The vaccination programme continues at pace with many of the most vulnerable now having had both doses. This is good news for everybody, as we can get back to enjoying some of the pleasures that have been denied over the winter.

As rates continue to fall and restrictions ease, we must maintain the Covid-19 controls that we have implemented on sites, and review our Office Covid-19 risk assessments and controls, reminding all staff what is required of them as and when they are in an office. We are not yet at a point where a full return to the office is on the horizon, but we must be prepared for those that need to use an office now, and for when we can return more fully.

To further help keep infection rates low each government are now making home Lateral Flow Covid tests freely available.



In England and Scotland these are available to all, and in Wales if you can't work from home. We'd encourage you to take advantage of these test, 1 in 3 people that have Covid don't display any symptoms.

Mental Health Awareness Week 2021



The Mental Health Foundation has designated 10-16th May Mental Health Awareness Week.

■ The theme this year in 'Connect with Nature'. We will be marking the week and circulating a special Mental Health

Bulletin to inform you how you can join in and benefit from the week.





May 2021 – Safety & Assurance Bulletin briefing

I have been personally briefed in the contents of this Safety & Assurance Bulletin.

Please add any questions relating to this briefing or any other health, safety and environmental matters you wish to raise:

Please add any suggestions on health, safety and environmental matters:

I have been briefed by: _____ My Tilhill Office is: _____

I understand that I am encouraged to submit comment and contribution from this bulletin.

Signed: _____ Name: _____ Date: _____

Signed: _____ Name: _____ Date: _____

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ORIGINAL sheet to be held at the Tilhill Office.

Send a **COPY** to: Head of Safety, Tilhill, The Gatehouse, Ruck Lane, Horsmonden, Tonbridge, Kent, TN12 8EA. Fax: 01892 860441. Email: ios@tilhill.com

Contractors: If you would like your own copy of this Safety & Assurance Bulletin please contact your local office and ask to be included on the mailing list.