

Embercombe Risk Assessment

Tractor Work

Description of main hazards and hazardous events:

Tractor is heavy and would cause serious injury or death if body parts are crushed. Crushing may occur as a result of losing control of the tractor or if on uneven or unstable ground as a result of the tractor rolling. If the tractor not parked on level ground or if the engine is running there is a risk of serious injury. The land brake may be insufficiently applied or changes to the load distribution in the trailer may cause the tractor to move. The area between the tractor and the trailer or implement is particularly dangerous as escape routes are restricted and there are various moving parts. If the tractor is in gear with the clutch held down there is a danger that the foot can slip off the clutch pedal and cause the tractor to lurch forwards or backwards. Any third party near the tractor is at risk of serious injury. The tractor has a variety of moving parts and there is a danger that clothing or hands could become entangled resulting in serious injury.

The tractor has a series of implements including trailers, a topper, a ridger and a rotovator. These implements are themselves very heavy and could cause crushing injuries if used incorrectly.

For some operations it is necessary to run the engine at high revs for long periods of time. The operator is exposed to excessive noise and vibration that could cause damage to hearing and vibration syndrome.

Tractor drivers also have to undertake simple maintenance operations such as adding fuel, coolant, examining filters, tightening bolts or lubricating moving parts. They will come into contact with a variety of substances that could cause harm if guidelines are not followed. Prolonged and repeated exposure to these substances could cause dermatitis.

The tractor may collide with other vehicles on site or with vehicles on the public roads around Embercombe.

Carrying passengers using the tractor

Carrying passengers poses a significant risk if policy is not followed. There is a risk that if a passenger is not seated they could fall from the trailer and there could be serious injury or death. There is also a risk of injury to limbs if they are not kept within the body of the trailer.

Persons exposed: Employees Volunteers Clients / Public
Contractors Vulnerable groups

Existing controls:

Tractor drivers are assessed as regards their competence before they begin using the machines. The tractors have roll bars. The tractors are not used on the woodland tracks unless the ground is suitably dry and stable. Best practice is to move things by hand towards the road or out of the woods. Unless it is necessary tractors should not be parked or paused on sloping ground. If they must be parked on a slope they should also be left in gear in case of a brake failure.

When working around the tractor it is best to switch off the engine and park it safely. However, if the engine needs to stay running the tractor should be in neutral with the brake applied.

Loose clothing such as scarfs should not be worn when using the tractor.

Ear protection should be worn for undertaking operations requiring high revolutions of the engine. Tractor drivers should take suitable rest periods when undertaking field

work.

When moving around and off the site care should be taken when turning blind corners. Gloves are provided in the workshop for undertaking maintenance of the tractor. Hand cream is provided for washing hands.

First aid kits are available and there are first aiders on the site.

Carrying passengers using the tractor

If children are being carried they must be supervised by someone within the trailer.

The tailgate should be fitted when carrying passengers. Passengers should be seated on the bed of the trailer. Passengers should never ride anywhere else other than sitting on the bed of the trailer. Passengers must keep limbs inside the body of the trailer.

Passengers should not be carried at the same time as heavy goods or heavy tools. The site speed limit of 5mph should be strictly observed. Passengers should not ride on the tractor 'off the road' or during difficult manoeuvres.

Are there any further controls recommended?

The tailgate needs improving. There should be a policy covering carrying passengers using the tractor in the staff handbook.

Summary of Safety Advice

The woodland tracks are often unsuitable for tractors

Where possible park tractors on level ground

If parking on a slope leave the tractor in gear

Take the tractor out of gear and apply the brake if attaching implements

Be aware of other vehicles or people, especially on blind corners

Other risk assessments you should read; [General Site](#)

Assessment by: Rob Kendall

Job title: Site Manager

Signed:



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