



GENERIC RISK ASSESSMENT GR03: LAUREL/RHODODENDRON/GORSE/SCRUB CLEARANCE

ACTIVITY ASSESSED		ASSESSMENT DATE	
LAUREL & RHODODENDRON CLEARANCE SCRUB & GORSE CLEARANCE SALMONBERRY CLEARANCE <p style="text-align: center;">page 1 of 2</p>		AUGUST 2014 revised NOV 2021	
ACTIVITY LOCATION	PRIVATE SITES	DATE FOR RE-ASSESSMENT	ASSESSED BY
persons at risk: all volunteers; especially young persons risk level: high			GRASSROOTS

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION	Site safety Slips, trips and falls; penetrating injuries Lifting & carrying Tool use Be aware of others; don't work alone or away from main group Minor injuries Hygiene Woodland Falling timber and flying wood Contact with overhead power lines Kickback/whip Use of a chainsaw Fires Handling timber Repetitive movements Thorn injuries Use of ropes Chemicals for stump treatment
HAZARD OR HAZARDOUS EVENT	PRECAUTIONS
Site safety	Volunteers to be advised about falling branches/bushes; trip hazards such as uneven ground & fallen wood; upstanding stumps that may cause penetrating injuries, especially in areas of salmonberry; slippery ground conditions; steeply sloping ground; sudden drops Large trees will normally be dealt with by others Where vehicles are in use volunteers must keep clear
Woodland	Areas of laurel & rhododendron occur as an understorey to taller trees Cease work in high winds Trees containing large deadwood in crown to be cordoned off using hazard tape if necessary Warn all of danger from deadwood in the canopy loosened by work
Falling timber and flying wood	Volunteers must ensure that others are clear of their work area Minimum safe working distance from any other person is the equivalent of twice the height/length of the wood/branch being worked on Volunteers should review safe working distances continually Volunteers throwing wood towards wood stack must review direction to ensure no volunteers are within the minimum safe working distance; call out warning Hung-up timber should be cleared immediately Wear helmets when felling wood over 3m

GENERIC RISK ASSESSMENT GR03: LAUREL/RHODODENDRON/GORSE/SCRUB CLEARANCE

ACTIVITY ASSESSED	ASSESSMENT DATE	
LAUREL & RHODODENDRON CLEARANCE <p style="text-align: center;">page 2 of 2</p>	AUGUST 2014 revised DEC 2021	

Contact with overhead power lines	Laurel & rhododendron do not normally reach overhead lines Do not light bonfires close to overhead lines or pylons
Kickback/whip	Undercut large branches Assess tangled branches before starting work on each bush Where branches are very tangled cut in smaller sections from free end Plan and keep clear escape routes Each volunteer should ensure they have a clear area to step back into
Use of a chainsaw	The client/land owner may use chainsaws Volunteers must work in an area remote from the chainsaw operator while cutting is ongoing Fuel cans & chainsaws should be visible at all times and moved as necessary The chainsaw operator is responsible for all equipment
Handling timber	Cut timber to manageable size Train all in general safe lifting and moving techniques Clear all extraction routes/route to fire of tripping hazards prior to manual removal of timber If large amounts of lifting and carrying to be done, complete detailed manual handling assessment Plan extraction routes to minimise carrying; cut timber is usually stacked on site or loaded onto a trailer; travelling distances are minimal Provide carrying aids for larger pieces, e.g. wheelbarrow, or organise teams for lifting
Repetitive movements	Sawing/swinging tools/use of loppers/handling timber Everyone should take regular rest breaks and vary any repetitive actions
Thorn injuries	Clear ground of material before kneeling Use protective kneelers or mat Leather protective gloves to be worn when handling thorny material Protective goggles, BS EN 166, must be worn when there is a risk that thorns may go in eyes Remove any blackthorn thorns immediately Warn of the dangers of infection from blackthorn thorns
Use of ropes	Ensure that all ropes have been checked before taking them out on site, and any rope with signs of fraying must not be used Polypropylene rope of at least 16mm thick to be used Rope must be long enough to ensure those using it are clear of felling area
Chemicals for stump treatment	The client/land owner normally deals with chemicals. Experienced volunteers only may assist with painting stumps, and must wear suitable PPE: nitrile gloves, goggles/face shield, protective suit as appropriate GrassRoots do not undertake spraying