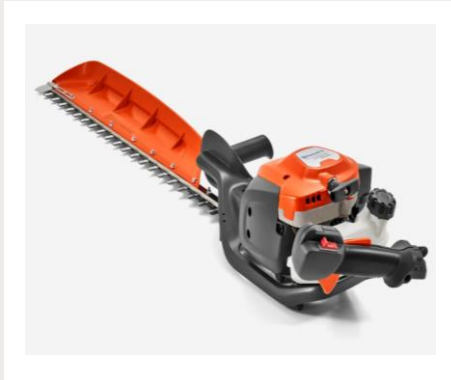


STOPThink!

Hedge Cutter Leg Injury



Hand-held Hedge Cutter, Model Husqvarna 522HS75X used on site.

What happened?

As part of the E&P CP7 HV Feeder Renewals works, vegetation clearance was being undertaken to clear the route and enable further site assessment and investigative surveys at Godstone, on the Kent route.

A member of supply chain working for Octavius injured their left leg when clearing low level vegetation with a hand-held hedge cutter. The equipment got caught in a bramble and as the operative pulled it backwards, the cutter came into contact with the IP's left leg causing a laceration to their shin. First Aid was immediately provided, and the IP attended A&E for further assessment. The injuries were assessed, and the laceration was glued at the A&E.

Impacts

- Due to the nature of the injury, the IP could not return to normal duties the next day.

Please remember the following points

1. **Remember**, only competent operatives must use hand-held tools like hedge cutters and understand actions to be taken if the tool becomes entangled.
2. For brush and hedge cutting operations, protective jackets and trousers must contain cut resistant material at the front of the garment. Specialist gloves, head and face protection must also be worn. Where required, this PPE must also be hi-visibility, EN ISO 20471.
3. A PPE check must be completed by the Supervisors to ensure all mandated PPE is being worn by operatives undertaking de-vegetation activities.
4. **Reminder**, the exclusion zone for strimming and brush cutting type operations is 15 metres. The Supervisor shall be responsible for ensuring the exclusion zone is always enforced.
5. First aid risk assessments must consider the task specific risks and the relevant first aid equipment must be available.

