

CORMONACHAN WOODLANDS ASSOCIATION

Risk Assessment / Induction Form

In this risk assessment, the hazards are classified according to their level of risk before and after controls are implemented:

Low Risk –	Medium Risk –	High Risk –
Something which may result in minor damage or slight harm (i.e. scratch or bruise)	Something which may result in a significant loss/damage or major injury (broken bone or other injury, which results in person being taken to hospital for treatment)	Something which may result in extensive damage, multiple major injuries or death

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Risk Assessment Title:	Rhododendron Eradication – Use of chemicals	
Risk Assessment Number:	CWA RA012	
Review Date:	17/02/19	
Risk Assessment Written By:	Don Kamsley	Signature:
Risk Assessment Reviewer(s):	Douglas Locke Dennis Bolt Jai Cowper-Smith Karen Pollock Gary Pollock	Signature(s):

Personnel & Key Individuals Covered By This Risk Assessment:	CWA Trained Volunteers
Location(s) Covered By This Risk Assessment:	Cormonachan Woodlands



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Risk Assessment Number:		CWA RA012			
The Hazard	What Might Happen	Potential Level Of Risk	Controls	Level Of Risk After Controls	Responsibility
Weather: Exposure to Cold and heat	Hypothermia, from mild symptoms shaking to advanced paradoxical undressing and terminal burrowing leading to death	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check a reliable weather forecast prior to going out and tailor plans accordingly. • Leader should be aware of the symptoms of overexposure to heat and cold in themselves and the volunteers • Volunteers must be advised regarding suitable weather-proof clothing and provided with access to some if they don't have any. • Rhododendron eradication activity cancelled in adverse weather conditions • Only trained competent personnel to take part in Rhododendron eradication with chemicals. 	Low	CWA Team Leaders
Countryside infrastructure: Stiles, gates, ladder stiles etc.	Cuts, abrasions possible broken bones, crushing injury	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaders to dynamically assess surfaces during rhododendron eradication. • Volunteers provided with guidance to wear sturdy footwear and tread carefully, avoiding wet and uneven surfaces if possible. • Safety talk carried out by CWA Team Leader advising volunteers to take care, avoid mud and slippery terrain. 	Low	CWA Team Leaders

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<p>Terrain: Walking on slippery, loose and uneven surfaces</p>	<p>Falling /tripping /slipping, leading to fractures, spinal damage, sprains, head injury.</p>	<p>High</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaders to dynamically assess surfaces during rhododendron eradication. • Volunteers provided with guidance to wear sturdy footwear and tread carefully, avoiding wet and uneven surfaces if possible. • Safety talk carried out by Team Leader advising volunteers to take care, avoid mud and slippery terrain. • Only trained competent personnel to take part in Rhododendron eradication with chemicals. 	<p>Low</p>	<p>CWA Team Leaders</p>
<p>Bio Hazards: Water and soil, faeces, insects and stinging poisonous plants</p>	<p>Infection and disease from soils, water and dirty surfaces</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leader to provide volunteers with advice regarding avoiding waterborne diseases and the symptoms. • Volunteers to cover any cuts on hands and arms. • Wash hands and arms after rhododendron eradication. • Team members are advised to get checked out by a doctor if any symptoms develop Insure to tell the doctor what tasks you have been doing. • Volunteers to avoid placing hands into water. • Anti-bacterial gel and/or wipes made available to volunteers • Team members are advised to carry insect repellent and nets during midge season. • Avoid bracken and long vegetation if possible to reduce the chance of getting ticks. • Team members are advised to perform a tick check when they get home. • Tick removers accessible and advice provided regarding avoiding tick bites and the symptoms of Lymes disease. 	<p>Low</p>	<p>CWA Team Leaders</p>

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Working near water:	Potential of drowning and hypothermia. Leading to possible brain damage and death.	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Throw lines available for use if the group has to work near deep water. • Leader must assess risk of falling into water and avoid clearing rhododendron over deep water. • Team members to avoid working near rivers/burns when in spate and to plan route to avoid crossing water where possible. 	Low	CWA Team Leaders
Vegetation: Loose overhanging/ thorny branches or trees	Head/eye injuries, leading to possibility of brain injury and loss of sight	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leader to assess site prior to the activity and use dynamic risk assessment during the activity. • Activity cancelled if wind conditions are unsuitable. • Volunteers advised to lookout for overhanging trees and highlight to Team Leader if they are concerned. • Volunteers to be provided with eye protection and use if vegetation is at eye height. 	Low	CWA Team Leaders
Illness	Range from headache and cold to flu and food poisoning, to heart attacks, brain problems and blood clots.	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any team member should advise the team Leader if they suffer from any pre-existing medical condition that would affect their ability to safely take part. Volunteers should advise Team Leader of any condition. • Leader should carry charged, fully functioning mobile phone. • If necessary, Emergency Services should be contacted as soon as possible. 	Low	CWA Team Leaders
Illness: Stress caused by understanding of role /unreasonable demands	Tiredness, exhaustion, mental illness, Stress related illnesses	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team members are advised to inform the Team Leader if they have been suffering from stress or feel uncomfortable with their role in the team. • Individuals should be aware of the symptoms and advise the Team Leader if they are concerned. 	Low	CWA Team Leaders

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<p>Sharp Objects: such as broken glass, stones, bottles or nails disturbed</p>	<p>Lacerations, puncture wounds</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site should be inspected for sharps by leader and during rhododendron eradication. • Volunteers advised to highlight to Team Leader if they find any sharps. • Volunteers advised to wear sturdy footwear. • Leader and volunteers to avoid where possible, walking through dense vegetation/undergrowth. 	<p>Low</p>	<p>CWA Team Leaders</p>
<p>Chemicals Accidental spillage of neat chemical in uncontrolled area.</p>	<p>Potential contamination of both land and water courses, resulting in toxic harm to humans, and the environment (e.g. birds, plants fish, animals etc.).</p>	<p>High</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chemical spray operators must have relevant qualifications to use chemicals to treat rhododendron. • When transporting chemicals to site, chemicals should be stored in a secure chemical safe. • Prior to commencement of chemical spray operations, a full task based risk assessment must be performed to identify all areas (water courses, drains, ditches etc) of vulnerability. Essential buffer zones must be identified and all team members made aware of spraying limitations. • A safe chemical mixing area must be identified and a temporary mixing bund used when cutting chemicals for use with nap sack sprayers. • Suitably absorbent material to soak up spillages must be at the work site during mixing operations. 	<p>Low</p>	<p>CWA Team Leaders</p>
<p>Chemicals Contamination of personnel</p>	<p>Resulting in skin irritation, burns, loss of vision and chemical shock.</p>	<p>High</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operators must have relevant qualifications to use chemicals to treat rhododendron. • Refer to separate COSHH RA. • When transporting chemicals to site, chemicals should be stored in a secure chemical safe. • When handling neat chemical all participants must wear wellingtons, Nitrile gloves, coveralls and face shield at all times. • When using knapsack; wellingtons, Nitrile gloves 	<p>Low</p>	<p>CWA Team Leaders</p>

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			<p>and coveralls must be worn at all times.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When using stem injectors a face shield must also be worn at all times in addition to above clothing. • Any contact with chemicals will be reported immediately and appropriate action taken. • Wash hands after using knapsack/stem injector and prior to eating. • Team Leader to ensure a first aid kit and emergency eye wash are available at worksite.. 		
<p>Manual Handling: Lifting heavy equipment e.g. knapsack sprayers, water and chemical containers</p>	<p>Muscular and skeletal injuries, leading to chronic pain and physiological disorders.</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team Leader to provide and review CWA RA010 (manual Handling) risk assessment during team safety talk. • Plan the activity in advance including the weight to be carried, where necessary a manual handling risk assessment should be carried out. • Team Leader to provide advice to volunteers and led groups regarding safe lifting practises during rhododendron eradication. • Where possible heavier loads split into lighter loads and containers. • Refer to the HSE for a good reference guide Manual Handling at Work: A Brief Guide – good handling techniques for lifting. • Team members should not lift, carry or move any object which is beyond their capabilities and should ask for assistance in these occurrences 	<p>Low</p>	<p>CWA Team Leaders</p>