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# **Health and safety issues for grounds and street cleansing**

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# Introduction

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- Challenges in maintaining banks and slopes
- The mistakes made by Local Authorities in managing banks and slopes
- Common themes in accidents and recent prosecutions

# Aims

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- Highlight the pitfalls than many organisations fall into
- Lessons learned from accidents will provide pointers towards good practice
- Sign post further advice
- Answer questions

# How safe is your industry?



## Landscaping/amenity accidents

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- Over the last 10 years there have been an average of
  - 2 fatal accidents per year
  - 2 major injuries per week
  - 6 over 3/7 day injuries per week
  - HAVS

# Health and safety – what's your problem?

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- Moving vehicles
  - Being hit by a moving vehicle
  - Mower overturns
- Manual handling
- Slips and trips
- Hand arm vibration syndrome
- Contact with moving machinery
- Struck by an object

# Recent prosecutions

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- An employee was killed when a mower overturned. Employer prosecuted and fined £20,000 and £20,425 costs
- 29 employees diagnosed with HAVS. Employer prosecuted and fined £25,000 and £9.417 costs
- Litter picker suffered serious injuries when struck by car. Employer fined £15,000 and £3,830 costs
- An employee was injured when a mower overturned. Employer fined £12,000 and £17,000 costs

# HSE concerns

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- Injury rates are not reducing
- Mowing incidents continue to occur
- Cases of reported ill health/civil claims for HAVS rising



# What am I trying to achieve?

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*How can I make it easier for the operator to do things the right way, rather than the wrong way?*

# Common themes in accidents

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- Lessons learned from actual accident investigations and prosecutions
- Accidents highlight poor practice
- What can be done differently to make sure it does not happen to you?

# What went wrong?

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- Work not planned by a competent person
- Risk assessment – poor quality and not site specific
- Unsafe systems of work, including HAVS
- Machine operating outside manufacturers recommendations
- Inadequate supervision and management
- Inadequate health surveillance

# Good practice - planning

- Assessing the risks associated with the work
- Planning the work to control significant risks
  - adequate arrangements for ensuring health and safety of their employees incl health surveillance
  - adequately trained and competent workers
  - suitable work equipment
  - safe systems of work
  - arrangements for equipment maintenance
  - provision of information to employees
  - selection and management of sub contractors
  - on site supervision/management
  - monitoring of performance

# Good practice – risk assessment



- Risk assessment
  - Generic elements
  - Site specific elements
  - Dynamic components
  - Suitable and sufficient

# Good practice – risk assessment

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- Risk assessment for mowing on slopes
  - Does it *really* need mowing?
  - Alternatives:
    - Plant it
    - Landscape it
    - Spray it
    - Leave it
    - Graze it

# Good practice – risk assessment



- Remember
  - Concentrate on high risk activities
  - Proportionate
  - Suitable and sufficient
  - Not judged by weight

# Good practice – risk assessment



- Risk assessment for mowing on slopes
  - The scale and steepness of the slope - considering access/egress, topography and “run-off” areas.
  - Identify who is at risk from the operation consider the operator, members of the public, property, traffic, etc.
  - Availability of suitable equipment - is specialised machinery available to hire or via a subcontractor.
  - Weather and surface conditions likely to be encountered during the operation + consider disturbed areas.
  - Operator competence and identify any specific training requirements.
  - Health surveillance



# Good practice – risk assessment

- Measure slopes, guesswork is almost certainly wrong



# Good practice – risk assessment

ATT ST KIDSGROVE SECTION N°2

- A - ZERO TURN MOWER ON LEVEL SECTION
- B - BANKS MOWER OR STRIM WITH SUITABLE FOOTWEAR
- C - ZERO TURN



## Good practice - equipment

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- Suitable – ride on v pedestrian controlled v remote controlled
- ROPS
- Seatbelts
- Adequately guarded
- Properly adjusted
- Maintained (brakes, tyres)
- Trained operatives

# Good practice - training

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- Training
  - Operatives
  - Training standards
  - Check
  - Supervisors and managers

# Good practice - instruction

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- Information and instruction
  - Informing them of any hazards to be controlled e.g. public access, utilities, traffic, diseased trees
  - Agreeing safe methods of work – using risk assessment, and for unusual jobs, a method statement
  - Monitoring and reviewing performance – make occasional visits to site, record performance

# Good practice - supervision

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- Supervision
  - Is it done
  - Is it effective
  - How is it recorded?

# What does HSE expect?

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- Informed clients/employers exercising effective control to the extent that you can
- Competent contractors or employees
- Well planned work
- Reduction in injury and ill health rates

# Where to go for advice?

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- All HSE guidance has been revised in the last three years

[www.hse.gov.uk](http://www.hse.gov.uk)

- Increasing emphasis on digital delivery
- Risk assessment guidance, templates and example assessments

[www.hse.gov.uk/risk/assessment.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/risk/assessment.htm)



**Any questions ?**