



Environmental Protection in Forestry – Roles and Responsibilities

New guidance was published last month providing information on the roles and responsibilities for environmental protection in forestry.

■ The guide is aimed at Contractors, Forest Works Managers and Landowners.

The guide was prepared by the Forest Industry Environment Group, a group founded by Confor and representatives from across the forest industry to advocate and facilitate high standards of environmental practice and compliance across the sector.

The guide builds on roles set out in FISA’s ‘Managing Health and Safety in Forestry’ to provide information to help deliver those responsibilities.

Copies can be viewed and downloaded from the Confor website ([here](#)) or on the Tilhill Contractor’s Portal ([here](#)).

FIEG

Guidance on Responsibilities for Environmental Protection in Forestry

Version 1



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Forest Industry Environment Group (FIEG)

Gearing up for Autumn

Last September we launched our industry-leading Diffuse Pollution Online Training for all operators of large plant working on our sites.

■ The take up through the year has been tremendous with around 500 individuals having completed the training so far. Thank you to everyone that has taken the time to do this. Not only does it help reduce the risk of diffuse pollution incidents on Tilhill sites, but also all the other sites those individuals go to work on.

As we approach the Autumn now is the time to look at your teams and assess who still needs to complete the training ahead of the normally wettest time of the year. You may have new operators since last year that haven't completed the

training, or perhaps as a team you are new to working on Tilhill sites. In all cases the training is a requirement for all operators of large plant on our sites.

Requesting Access to the Training:

Scan this QR Code to register for access to the training. You can also request access by emailing: ios@tilhill.com



Above: John Gorman SEPA's Forestry Lead makes a guest appearance in the video and explain how important it is to manage diffuse pollution.

**STOP, THINK, ACT and
Know the Rules to
Prevent Diffuse Pollution!**

Through the Barricades

We tend not to build barricades on or around our sites but we do have lots of boundaries that need to be agreed, marked, understood, and adhered to. We have a guidance note dedicated to this topic and boundaries form part of our pre-commencement meeting checklists.

■ It is vital on all sites that we recognise and mark all boundaries. These may be the edge of the felling area, environmental sensitivities, overhead power lines, or specific trees to be retained. The boundaries must be marked well ahead of operations. We have found boundaries in the past that weren't marked, which resulted in the boundaries being crossed as operations got ahead of the work plan or it had been changed.

While the conventions for marking are not standardised across the industry there are a number of critical factors for markings on each site, these include:

- Markings used must clear and understood by all on site. Using paints of similar colours to mark different things are easily mistaken.
- Markings must be obvious. A small piece of biodegradable tape tied to every tenth tree is likely to be missed. Consider the operators view when they are working.
- Marking must be consistent. Don't change colours, or from paint to tape halfway through the site.
- Markings are to be on the trees to be retained, i.e. the opposite side of a ride or watercourse.
- Use paint and tape where visibility is critical.

Finally, walk the site with operators to ensure everyone on site understands the boundaries and the markings used.



Above: Boundary marking at DBH level. Good frequency of marking as you are able to see at least two of the last marked trees.



Above: Boundary marking at ground level due to heavy branching. Note the use of Tape & Spray Paint.

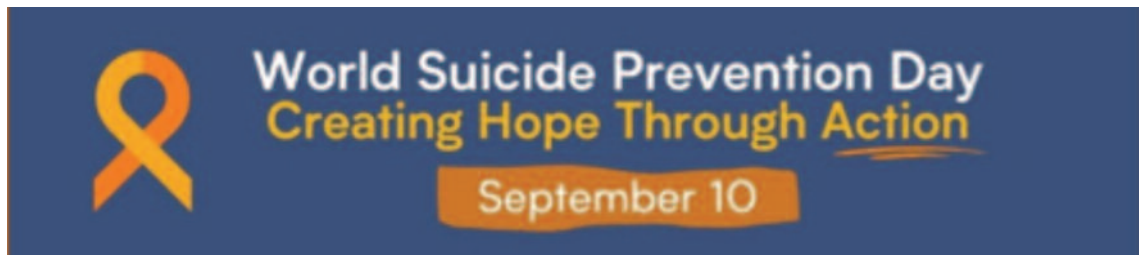


Above: Marking a ride boundary opposite the felling area.



Above: Spray Paint used to mark the boundaries.

Creating Hope Through Action



The theme for this year's World Suicide Prevention Day on September 10 is 'Creating Hope Through Action', to remind us that there is an alternative to suicide despite the fact it may not feel like it at the time.

■ The aim of the day is to inspire confidence in all of us and show that our actions, no matter how big or small, may provide hope to those who are struggling.

Every year more than 700,000 people take their own life and there are many more people who attempt suicide and even more who contemplate it.

- 1 in 4 people experience mental ill-health in their lifetime.
- 1 in 5 people in the UK think about Suicide in their lifetime.
- 1 in 15 attempt Suicide in their lifetime.

Every suicide is a tragedy and has long-lasting effects on the people left behind. Today, **400 people in the UK** will feel so in pain, so isolated, so helpless, that they attempt suicide. Of those 400 people, **18 will die** of suicide.

Creating Hope Through Action

Be alert – Not everyone who thinks about suicide will tell someone, but there may be warning signs.

Be honest – Tell the person why you're worried about them and ask about suicide. Tell them you want to know how they really are, and that it's OK to talk about suicide.

Listen – Just listening is one of the most helpful things you can do. Try not to judge or give advice.

Get them some help – It's OK if you don't know how; the links on this page can get you started.

Take care of yourself – You may find it helpful to discuss your feelings with another friend, or a confidential service.

Losing someone to suicide can be extremely painful and complicated. On average, **one suicide impacts 115 people**. Those bereaved by suicide are at higher risk themselves of contemplating or attempting suicide.

Many people thinking of taking their own life or who have attempted suicide have not been seeking help and are therefore not getting the help they need.

People struggle with a multitude of emotional and mental health difficulties, yet only a fraction of people feel able to talk about it. Suicides are preventable with timely interventions. Taking a minute to reach out to someone in your community – a family member, friend, colleague or even a stranger – could change the course of another person's life.

There **IS** hope – it is vital that people experiencing suicidal thoughts know they are not alone and there are people who care about them and their situation. It is never too late to take action to help a situation that seems hopeless. Nobody is ever beyond care and understanding.

Raising community awareness and breaking down the taboo is important to make progress in preventing suicide.

The International Association for Suicide Prevention suggest lighting a candle and placing in a safe place visible from your window at 8pm on **World Suicide Prevention Day – 10th September**, to show your support.

To find out what **action** you can take to create **hope** for others please visit the Staying Safe website:

<https://www.stayingsafe.net/carers>

If you need support yourself then you can contact one of the following for a friendly, understanding, and caring voice:

[Samaritans](#)

[Mind](#)

[Breathing Space – Scotland](#)

[C.A.L.L. Mental Health Helpline – Wales](#)

Covid Update

By now England, Scotland, and Wales have largely relaxed most Covid controls in social situations, with some variation on face coverings and other precautions.

■ Our sites have been very successful in continuing to work through the pandemic. Most office staff have been working from home since March 2020, but we are beginning a gradual return as each nation relaxes the requirement to work from home. Each office has its own risk assessment and controls discussed and agreed with the local teams.

Each nation has changed the requirement for self-isolation for close contacts of confirmed cases. Fully vaccinated adults will no longer have to self-isolate if they are identified as a close contact of someone with Covid, as long as they have no symptoms. Instead, they will need to take a PCR test and can stop self-isolating if the result is negative. If the result is positive, they will need to self-isolate just like anyone else. In Wales, people will also be advised to also take PCR tests on day two and day eight if you have been identified as a close contact of someone who has the virus.

The pandemic is not yet over and this winter will be a stern test of vaccines. New vaccine resistant variants are possible, and a workplace transmission remains reportable to HSE. We must not become complacent about control measures in the workplace and must all still remain vigilant as we slowly return to normal.

Safety Alert


ACTION


Safety Alert Product Recall of STIHL TS 410 & TS 420

13 August 2021

Background information

This Safety Alert has been produced in the interest of your personal Safety

- STIHL has learnt that a limited number of TS 410 and TS 420 cut-off machines in the below noted serial number range were assembled with the flywheel-to-crankshaft connection over-tightened. Overtightening of this connection may damage the flywheel, which could cause the flywheel to fail and break apart while the engine is running.
- A failure during the operation of the machine would pose a **projectile hazard** to the user or a bystander. A damaged flywheel is not apparent from a visual inspection
- **Machines in the following serial number range are affected: 189442634 – 190001700**
- If you own a cut-off machine TS 410 or TS 420 in this serial number range, please discontinue using the machine immediately



Actions

- If you have identified your Stihl Saw product is one of those within the stated recall serial numbers, do not use it.
- Contact your local STIHL dealer for a flywheel replacement. This repair is free of charge for you.
- Link to your nearest Stihl Dealer <https://www.stihl.co.uk/dealer-locator.aspx>

If you have any queries about this safety alert information announcement or any other safety announcement then please contact Ian.Clayton@highwaysengland.co.uk

HEi265

**home safe
and well**

**ACCIDENTS AT WORK
CAN CHANGE LIVES
IN AN INSTANT**



Sept 2021 – Safety & Assurance Bulletin briefing

I have been personally briefed in the contents of this Safety & Assurance Bulletin.

Please add any questions relating to this briefing or any other health, safety and environmental matters you wish to raise:

Please add any suggestions on health, safety and environmental matters:

I have been briefed by: _____ My Tilhill Office is: _____

I understand that I am encouraged to submit comment and contribution from this bulletin.

Signed: _____ Name: _____ Date: _____

Signed: _____ Name: _____ Date: _____

Signed: _____ Name: _____ Date: _____

Signed: _____ Name: _____ Date: _____

Signed: _____ Name: _____ Date: _____

Signed: _____ Name: _____ Date: _____

ORIGINAL sheet to be held at the Tilhill Office.

Send a **COPY** to: Head of Safety, Tilhill, The Gatehouse, Ruck Lane, Horsmonden, Tonbridge, Kent, TN12 8EA. Fax: 01892 860441. Email: ios@tilhill.com

Contractors: If you would like your own copy of this Safety & Assurance Bulletin please contact your local office and ask to be included on the mailing list.