



**THINK SAFE
STAY SAFE**



**Tilhill
Forestry**

BSWGROU**P** member of **binderholz** ■

SAFETY AND ASSURANCE BULLETIN

INSIST ON SAFETY

APRIL 2024

Machine Maintenance

Using the correct piece of equipment for a job and having it used by someone that knows what they are doing always achieves a better result. Inspecting that equipment and carrying out maintenance so it remains functioning properly can help to reduce costs associated with downtime. This all helps toward a productive and profitable business. Amazing then that safety regulations have exactly the same goals.

The Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER) requires that employers provide work equipment suitable for the task and those that are managing, supervising and using the work equipment are suitably competent.

The Regulations also require work equipment to be inspected and maintained. So how does this impact on better safety? An effective inspection and maintenance programme helps to reduce unplanned breakdowns. Interventions with work equipment presents different risks than during running conditions. Often guards have to be removed to undertake the maintenance, and access may be more difficult. Add into this the unexpected nature of a breakdown usually means it is in the most awkward situation and most time critical part of a job, and it is easy to see how risk can increase in a breakdown situation. Unmaintained equipment may

continued

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Machine Maintenance – continued

have some safeguards fall into disrepair and so the risk of operation can increase.

Maintenance needs to be correctly planned and carried out. Unsafe maintenance has caused many fatalities and serious injuries, either during the maintenance or to those using the badly maintained or wrongly maintained/repaired equipment.

PUWER requires that:

- all work equipment be maintained in an efficient state, in efficient order and in good repair
- maintenance operations on work equipment can be carried out safely
- where any machinery has a maintenance log, the log is kept up to date. HSE recommend that all high risk machinery does have a maintenance log. Tilhill view is that all Forestry machinery is high risk.

If you are an employer and you provide equipment for use, from hand tools and ladders to electrical power tools and larger plant, you need to demonstrate that you have arrangements in place to make sure they are maintained in a safe condition.

Who can maintain work equipment?

Maintenance work should only be carried out by those who are competent to do the work, and have been provided with sufficient information, instruction and competence training.

With high-risk or complex equipment, these demands may be significant and, in some cases, may be best undertaken by the manufacturer or specialist contractors. However, in many cases, maintenance can be done in-house by suitably trained, competent staff.

For some maintenance work, for example the changing of abrasive wheels, there are well-established industry training schemes. In other cases, such as for the use of small-scale scaffold towers, sufficient training may be provided by the equipment hirers.

In other work, such as with hand-held chainsaws, training on the safe maintenance of the equipment is normally provided as an integral part of the basic training in its safe use.

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Dos and don'ts of plant and equipment maintenance.

To maintain plant and equipment safely:

- ✓ do ensure maintenance is carried out by a competent person (someone who has the necessary skills, knowledge and experience to carry out the work safely)
- ✓ do maintain plant and equipment regularly – use the manufacturer's maintenance instructions as a guide, particularly if there are safety-critical features
- ✓ do have a procedure that allows workers to report damaged or faulty equipment
- ✓ do provide the proper tools for the maintenance person
- ✓ do schedule maintenance to minimise the risk to other workers and the maintenance person wherever possible
- ✓ do make sure maintenance is done safely, that machines and moving parts are isolated or locked and that flammable/explosive/toxic materials are dealt with properly.

To prevent accidents and injuries:

- ✗ don't ignore maintenance
- ✗ don't ignore reports of damaged or unsafe equipment
- ✗ don't use faulty or damaged equipment.

Maintenance of work equipment - Work equipment and machinery ([hse.gov.uk](https://www.hse.gov.uk))

Asian Hornet

Asian hornets, also known as yellow-legged hornets, have been seen in Britain since 2016. They are an invasive species in Britain as their spread could negatively affect the wildlife already living here, particularly honeybees. The hornets raid honeybee hives by sitting outside them and capturing workers as they go in and out.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) is trying to prevent a nationwide Asian hornet invasion, currently through eradication of individuals and nests. There are concerns that the Asian hornet is becoming established in Britain after they were spotted in two locations at opposite ends of England, in the town of Liskeard in Cornwall and in Hull, within a few days of each other.

Asian hornets are relatively new to Britain, only being spotted here for the first time in the small town of Tetbury, in Gloucestershire in 2016. A nest was found and removed by the National Bee Unit. Since then, the insect has been spotted in several counties across the UK, including in Kent, Cornwall, Dorset, Devon and Hampshire. There have been 45 confirmed sightings in total in the UK since 2016, including 29 nests that have all been destroyed. There has been a sharp increase in sightings in 2023, with at least 22 confirmed reports so far.

How to Identify an Asian Hornet

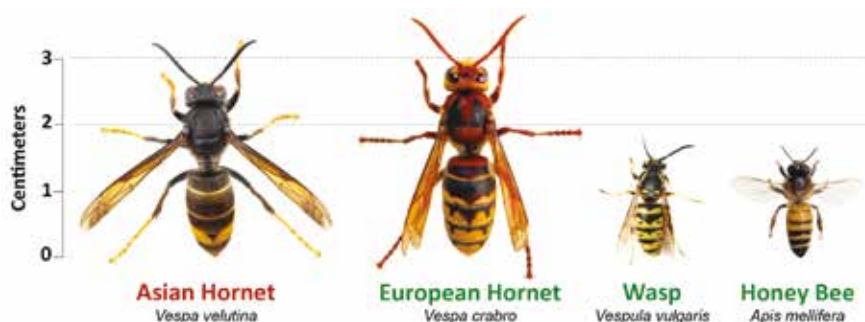
Asian hornets typically build nests in the open – they often build on tree branches in the foliage. The nest is patterned, which probably helps to disguise it among the leaves.

Hornets are grouped within the genus *Vespa*. They have larger heads in relation to their body size compared to other wasps, and the structure of the head is slightly different.

The abdomen has dark patches covering most of the first half and then it gets a bit yellow - it's quite a distinctive colour pattern.

Asian hornets legs transition from brown closest to their body to yellow at the ends. They have an orange face

Asian hornet queens reach up to three centimetres in length and workers around 2.5 centimetres.



When are they active?

Asian hornets are active between April and November, with a peak in August and September and is inactive over the winter.

What to do if you spot an Asian Hornet or Nest?

It is important to report any suspected sightings of this species as soon as possible. Vigilance is particularly required in southern parts of England and Wales and around major ports.

Ideally sightings should be reported via the Asian Hornet Watch App or via an Online recording form

Do not under any circumstances disturb or provoke an active hornets' nest.

For more information please visit: www.nonnativespecies.org

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Good Call Award



February's good call award has been awarded to Colin McKerral, from P McKerral & Co, for his spotting of the roadside edge failing, stopping and reporting it. The main running surface of the road was unaffected, but the edge had begun to fail above a steep bank. Haulage was stopped until repairs could be made.

This not only saved a dangerous situation for a driver, had further failure occurred when driving over that stretch, but also the potential for resultant diffuse pollution with a water course running beneath.

Thank you and well done Colin.

STOP, THINK and ACT
when problems start to
develop and before an
incident happens.

In the News Elsewhere

Recycling firm fined after man killed by shovel loader

A recycling company in Wales has been fined £300,000 after a man was killed by a shovel loader. The deceased lost his life when he was run over from behind by a wheeled loading shovel. They had been on their way to undertake routine maintenance tasks when the incident happened, while walking across the wood processing yard.

Health and Safety Executive (HSE) inspector said the company failed to ensure pedestrians and vehicles were separated at its site. The HSE also found that although a risk assessment had been produced prior to the work commencing, it was not suitable nor sufficient and did not include work taking place in the wood yard. Additionally, the risk assessment should have identified there was a risk to pedestrians where there were moving vehicles.

The company pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. The company was fined £300,000 and ordered to pay £29,917.47 in costs at Court.

HSE inspector said: This tragic incident led to the death of a father of two and could have been prevented. The company should have identified, and controlled the risks involved with using large plant and vehicles in line with HSE guidance. A safe system of work should have been in place, ensuring that pedestrians and vehicles were segregated. This is sadly a common cause of fatal incidents in this sector. The most effective way of protecting pedestrians in any workplace is to make transport routes entirely separate.

Company fined after delivery driver suffers brain injury

A company has been fined £380,000 after a delivery driver fell and suffered a traumatic brain injury while working at its site. The Injured Party (IP) was delivering fuel for a temporary diesel generator at a timber processing site when they fell from a trailer.

The IP had been stowing equipment in a trailer attached to his truck when the vehicle was struck by a forklift truck reversing out of a nearby mill. This led to the trailer shunting into the IP who then fell over and hit their head onto the hard floor below. They spent five weeks in hospital after sustaining a traumatic brain injury before spending 13 weeks in a care facility. They still suffer from memory loss and dizziness as a result of the injury.

A Health and Safety Executive (HSE) investigation found the company failed to identify safe systems of work for the delivery of fuel to the temporary generators at its site. There was inadequate segregation of vehicles and pedestrians in the yard. There were no measures in place to prevent forklift trucks from entering the areas in which delivery drivers were working whilst refuelling generators.

The company understood the risks associated with workplace transport, as control measures had been identified for separating pedestrians and vehicles, but these had not been implemented. Site rules had been identified but were not routinely implemented or monitored by the company.

Every workplace must be safe for the people and vehicles using it and traffic routes must be suitable for the people and vehicles using them. HSE has guidance on workplace transport with advice on keeping traffic routes safe and separating people from vehicles.

The company pleaded guilty to breaching Sections 2(1) and 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. The company was fined £380,000 and ordered to pay £5,934.50 in costs at Court.

HSE inspectors said: "This case highlights the dangers arising from inadequate management of workplace transport. It also highlights the requirements to ensure the safety of non-employees including contractors at employer's sites."

April 2024 – 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, sustainability, and/or 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: _____
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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

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