

# Birmingham & District Beekeepers

## Winterbourne Apiary

### Training Apiary Grounds Risk Assessment

**General Description:** Maintenance of training apiary grounds includes mowing, strimming, hedge cutting, planting and weeding, replenishing bark chippings, leaf collection, tree surgery etc. This work can be undertaken by either beekeepers or professional ground workers

#### The Method of Assessing Risk

<b>S</b> - Severity (1 =Minor, 2=Serious, 3=Major)	<b><u>Note A</u></b>
<b>L</b> - Likelihood (1=Unlikely, 2=Possible, 3=Likely)	A Summary of Actions in the Event of a Serious Bee Sting Reaction is attached.
<b>R</b> - Risk (Severity x Likelihood)( A score over 2 prompts control Measures)	

Item	Activity	Hazard	Persons Affected	S	L	R	Control Measure	S	L	R
1.	<b>Lone Working</b>	Remaining unlocated if injured or incapacitated and unable to raise the alarm	Grounds Worker	3	2	6	<p>Check that there is a mobile phone signal.</p> <p>Always bring a charged mobile phone with you preferably in your bee suit pocket</p> <p>Always tell someone that you are going to the apiary and what time you expect to return</p> <p>Leave them your mobile phone no. and the address and emergency contact details for the apiary</p> <p>Be aware of any emergency procedures associated with the site and details of its location for alerting the emergency services.</p> <p>Be aware of the increased hazard of lone working and do not take unnecessary risks</p> <p>If you are lone working, put a message on the whats app group that you are at the apiary and send a message when you have left. If people notice that there has not been a leave message, then we can all check up on the person to make sure they are OK</p>	3	1	3
2.	Moving heavy materials	Musculo – skeletal injuries	Ground workers	1	2	2	<p>Do not attempt to move heavy objects or materials without assistance.</p> <p>Use wheeled trolleys/ wheelbarrows for moving heavy or bulky components</p> <p>Adopt safe manual handling techniques</p>	1	1	1
3.	<b>Using heat/flame producing appliances</b>	Injury(Burns); Damage to property from Fire;	Grounds Workers	3	2	6	<p>Ensure fuel is extinguished and machine allowed to cool before leaving site</p> <p>If possible, use such equipment externally and on hard surfaced areas.</p> <p>Be aware of the fire risk. of grass and other vegetation.</p>	3	1	3

4.	Sting Risk	Injury	Grounds Workers	4	5	4	<p>When handling bees the possibility of being stung is always present, this must be made clear to all participants. The risk can be mitigated by use of appropriate PPE, this must be worn in the apiary and should be checked before entry to the apiary, the trainers should demonstrate good practice. Participants must not stand in the flight path of bees and if any colonies show aggressive behaviour the participants must retire to a safe distance and one of the trainers should close the hive.</p> <p>The Apiary manager will have a First Aid kit and a Accident book on their person when running a Session. Out of these times it is the responsibility of the Member to have a first aid kit which will have antihistamine tablets &amp; Cream</p>			
5.	Physical Injury	Injury	Grounds Workers	4	3	3	<p>Sharp objects such as tools and castellations may be used leading to the possibility of cuts and grazes. be handled by the bellows only. The Apiary manager will have a small Burns First Aid Kit and an accident book on their person when running a Session. Out of these times it is the responsibility of the Member to have a first aid kit</p> <p>Smokers are always hot and should</p>			
6.	Burn Risk	Injury	Grounds Workers	4	5	2	<p>Lighting of smokers can cause a risk from burning during lighting appropriate equipment should be used. Two further risks can occur, gloves should not be worn during lighting as plastic or rubber gloves can melt on to the skin causing a nasty injury, secondly veils should not be worn during lighting as sparks can damage the veil leading to an access point for bees.</p> <p>The Apiary manager will have a small Burns First Aid Kit on their person when running a Session. Out of these times it is the responsibility of the Member to have a first aid kit</p>			
7.	Tripping Hazard	Injury	Grounds Workers	4	2	2	<p>The apiary site and any access routes must be checked before the training session. Where possible any trip hazards should be removed. If hazards cannot be removed such as steps or animal burrows their presence must be made clear to all participants.</p>			

8.	<b>Use of Powered &amp; Hand Tools equipment</b>	Personal injury	Grounds workers, Adjacent personnel				<p>Always use properly maintained equipment,</p> <p>Do not use equipment with which you are not familiar and on which you are not trained.</p> <p>Always wear PPI appropriate to the task in hand.</p> <p>Be aware of fellow workers wandering into your work space. Cordon area off if activity is prolonged</p> <p>Be particularly aware of activities above head height e.g/ tree work</p> <p>Do not strim in proximity to others. (stones and debris can be thrown up.)</p> <p>Do not store petrol in confined spaces (build-up of petrol fumes) where naked flames could be used</p> <p>Store petrol cans for replenishment of machinery whilst working on a sound surface and in the shade.</p> <p>Clean up any spillages of petrol particularly on clothing. Do not pour petrol with engine running or close to heat sources Ensure engines are turned off before adjusting, maintaining etc. Allow equipment to cool before storing.</p> <p>Do not use other people's equipment.</p> <p>Always use powered equipment when you have safe footing. If using electrically powered equipment always use a trip plug.,</p> <p>If using electrically powered equipment be aware of the cable being damaged or creating a trip hazard.</p> <p>If electrically powered equipment owned by the Branch ensure that it is PAT tested.</p>	3	1	3

9.	<b>Using chemicals</b>	Skin irritation /breathing difficulties, other adverse reaction	Grounds Workers	2	2	2	Comply with manufacturer's directions:  Always wear protective clothing Access to running water should be checked before working with chemicals. I.e., that the main buildings are open and accessible. If no access to running water, then this job should not be done, where there is no running water, there should be a eye wash station	2	1	2
10.	Contact with Vegetation	Stings and scratches from nettles brambles and hedgerow thorns etc.	Ground workers	1	2	2	Wear gloves and eye protection  Keep nettles under control  Avoid contact with brambles and hedgerow thorns  Wear appropriate clothing	1	1	1
11.	<b>Correct storage of Smokers</b>	Fire Risk	Ground workers				Members should ensure that the smokers have been emptied into a Fire Bucket which has a suitable amount of wet sand , before storing in the shed			
12.	<b>Swarms in Public Places</b>	Stings	Ground workers				Members are to reduce the risk of swarms during active season, by preforming Hive inspections and providing swarm management			
13.	<b>Falling Trees</b>	Serious Injury or Death	Ground workers				Apiaries which have trees onsite or around the perimeter, care should be taken to identify any risks and if any are found to abandon the Session and report to appropriate person  Apiary sessions should not take place where high winds have been forecast, or suddenly the weather changes, as this can lead to trees becoming a "wind sail" which are covered in Ivy			
14.	Unauthorised access by other site users or Trespassers	Bee sting	Trespassers Other site users	3	2	6	Post signs warning of hazards to deter interference. Site hive entrance so as to route flight path away from access routes.	2	1	2
15.	<b>Traversing site on foot</b>	Injury from Trips and Falls induced by rough terrain	Ground workers	2	2	4	Keep apiary clear of debris  Maintain safe access routes within apiary.  Wear appropriate footwear for uneven and rough terrain  Arrange help with heavy loads or use trolley/ wheel barrow.	2	1	2

## Summary of Actions in the Event of a Serious Bee Sting Reaction:

- Ensure the safety of yourself and others: close any open hives and get the patient away from the bees.
- Remove the sting(s) as quickly as possible, by whatever means.
- **In the event of a STING IN THE AIRWAY or a SEVERE REACTION – treat as a medical emergency and call 999.**
- Call 999 immediately and ask for an ambulance, giving precise location details and advise of a possible bee sting reaction. Location Details – Quote **What3Words Letter.Shower.Palm**

58 Edgbaston Park Rd, Birmingham B15 2RT

Phone Security Emergency Number Tel No 0121 414 4444  
to Alert them of a medical Emergency at the Service Yard

- Follow advice from the 999 call handler.
- Loosen tight clothing, if necessary lie the patient down and await assistance.
- Administer adrenaline **if the patient has been prescribed it and allows it to be administered.**
- In cases where adrenaline has been administered, the patient should be promptly assessed at a local A&E department