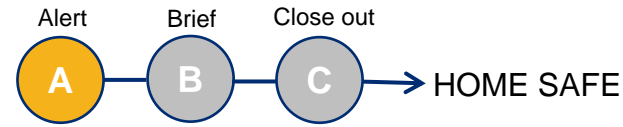


SHE ALERT

Thorn penetrates finger

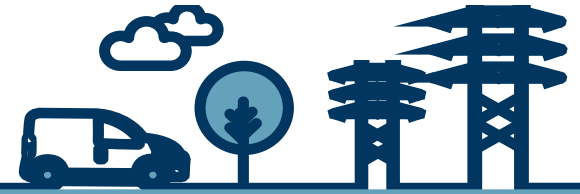
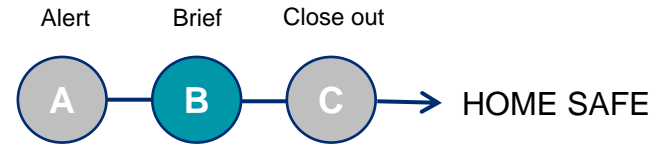


Date of incident	3rd July 2024		Directorate	Treecutting	
Region	Works Delivery	Location	Beckhampton	Classification	MTI (Medical Treatment Injury)
What happened ?					
<p>Whilst carrying out blackthorn clearance using a ground chainsaw, the operative used their right hand to clear away some cut sections. A blackthorn penetrated the operatives right index finger through the chainsaw gloves being worn. First aid was administered, and the operative returned to work. The next day it was still swollen, so the operative attended A&E, received a tetanus injection, antibiotics and a dressing was applied to help draw the thorn out.</p> <p>Things to Consider</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carry out a dynamic risk assessment for each task Plan scan and adapt to the conditions/task/environment you are working in Thorn gloves could have been used after cutting works were completed to clear the area. 					



SHE BRIEF

Thorn penetrates finger



Key initial learnings to be shared more widely

What Happened?

Whilst carrying out blackthorn clearance using a ground chainsaw, the operative used their right hand to clear away the cut sections. A blackthorn penetrated the operatives right index finger through the chainsaw gloves being worn. First aid was administered, and the operative returned to work. The next day it was still swollen, so the operative attended A&E, received a tetanus injection, antibiotics and a dressing was applied to help draw the thorn out.

What have we done?

After carrying out the initial investigation, it was clear the operative was using the correct hand protection (chainsaw gloves) for the primary task, cutting blackthorn with a ground chainsaw. However, as there was multiple operatives on site, the blackthorn risk could have been managed differently.

Further Actions

If there are multiple operatives on site, 1 operative can use the ground saw to clear the blackthorn, and a 2nd operative wearing blackthorn protection gloves/sleeves, can clear what's been cut once the saw has stopped. Alternatively, the 2nd operative can use fibreglass rods and hook attachment to clear what's been cut. JBS offer both gloves and sleeves, specifically to manage the risk of perforation/puncture. If you are at risk of blackthorn puncture you must order the gloves/sleeves from JBS. The procedure regarding this task is being reviewed and will be reissued in due course.

Wider Learnings

The tips of blackthorns are very brittle, and fragments can become buried in the skin. This can lead to infection and more serious conditions. We should always carry out a 20 second scan to ensure we have the correct PPE for the task, and we are carrying out and carry out dynamic risk assessments.



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