

## Pest Free Hibiscus Coast Project

### Activity Risk Assessment & Volunteer Safety Briefing – Pest Animal Control

**This Risk Assessment and Safety Briefing is specific to the site and activity described below and must not be used for other sites or activities**

Site name or description:	Pest Free Hibiscus Coast Project area, Hibiscus Coast, Auckland			
Date(s) the activity will be undertaken (or N/A if ongoing) *:	n/a	Assessment prepared by:	Jenny Hanwell, Project Manager	Date: 8/2/24

Activity, or hazard category	Hazard Identification: what harm could occur and how?	Can this hazard be eliminated?	If Yes: how have you eliminated the hazard? If No: what controls will you put in place to reduce the risk? FOR ALL: Awareness – highlight this hazard in safety briefings.
<b>Trapping</b>	Risk of injury to hands and fingers while setting traps or if traps are tampered with.	<b>No</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inspect trap before attempting to set it. Ensure trap is mechanically sound, stable and in good condition.</li> <li>Traps must only be set by people who have been trained to do so.</li> <li>Use trap safety catch if fitted.</li> <li>Follow manufacturer's instructions for safe setting of the trap.</li> <li>If a trap is placed where it can be seen by the public, ensure the trap is secure and cannot be tampered with.</li> </ul>
	Changing baits – old bait (eggs, meat etc) may have become rotten and carry contaminants.	<b>No</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wear disposable or washable gloves when handling old baits.</li> <li>Wash/sanitise hands regularly.</li> <li>Dispose of baits appropriately.</li> </ul>
	Handling of animal carcasses – risk of disease, serious illness.  Lack of facilities on site for washing hands.	<b>No</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wear disposable or washable gloves when handling carcasses.</li> <li>Hedgehogs to be removed from traps using a tool or holding a foot with thick gloves.</li> <li>Wash/sterilise hands after handling carcasses. Carry wet wipes / water and a towel, and hand sanitizer.</li> <li>Dispose of carcasses appropriately. In the bush away from the trap / well of tracks. In more urban sites double bag carcass and dispose of to landfill.</li> </ul>

	Placing animal traps – risk of body stressing, injury from surrounding environment.	<b>No</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take care with body positioning when placing traps – do not stretch or over-reach.</li> <li>Watch for branches, cutty grass or other environmental hazards that could cause injury while placing the trap.</li> <li>Do not carry more than you feel comfortable with, use a trolley / pack where needed.</li> </ul>
<b>Using poison baits</b>	<p>Risk of poisoning to user and others, potential serious illness or fatality.</p> <p>Lack of facilities on site for washing hands.</p>	<b>No</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Poison baits must only be handled by somebody who is appropriately trained, or who is supervised by somebody who is trained.</li> <li>Correct PPE must be worn when preparing and handling poison bait. (Disposable / washable gloves). Carry wet wipes / water and a towel, and hand sanitizer to wash hands afterwards.</li> <li>All possible steps must be taken to prevent environmental contamination by poison bait, including exposure to non-target species. Remove all crumbs / old baits from site in a secure bag / container and dispose of to landfill.</li> <li>Bait stations must be locked and placed out of public view or secured so that the bait cannot be accessed by an unauthorised person.</li> <li>Baits stocks must be stored and handled compliantly. All containers used in the field (and in storage) must be sealed and labelled (POISON, Bromadiolone, Antidote Vit K.)</li> <li>Safety Data Sheets are readily available for all poison baits held. (Volunteer website)</li> <li>Old baits must be disposed of according to manufacturer's (or local regulator's) instructions. (Double bag and dispose of in landfill)</li> </ul>
<b>Body stressing</b>	Body stressing when carrying / placing traps can result in muscle or joint pain that may be long-lasting	<b>No</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that body placement and posture is best suited to the task.</li> <li>Take extra care of posture and body stressing when working on steep ground.</li> <li>Take regular breaks or move to different tasks so that body movements can be varied</li> <li>Report any pain or discomfort early so that it can be dealt with in a timely manner.</li> </ul>
<b>Temperature extremes</b>	Sunny weather and hot temperatures may result in excessive fatigue, sunburn, heat stroke, dehydration or hyperthermia.	<b>No</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wear appropriate clothing to the working conditions.</li> <li>Have water available and rehydrate regularly.</li> <li>Wear a hat and use sunblock when working outdoors.</li> <li>Monitor all team members for heat-related effects.</li> <li>Take breaks somewhere cool if possible.</li> </ul>

	<p>Cold weather, rain, storms can cause discomfort and potential health issues including hypothermia.</p> <p>Storms / floods cause contamination of equipment due to overflowed drains.</p>	<b>Yes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check weather reports and cancel work day if conditions are too severe.</li> <li>• Awareness – highlight this hazard in safety briefings.</li> <li>• Dress appropriately to the conditions – warm clothes and rain gear.</li> <li>• Take breaks out of the weather.</li> <li>• Work indoors where possible.</li> <li>• Abandon the work if conditions deteriorate.</li> <li>• Wear protective gloves and sterilize equipment affected by floodwaters before use.</li> </ul>
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<b>Terrain</b>	Steep or rugged terrain may increase the likelihood of injury and exhaustion, leading to serious injury or health complications.	<b>No</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that workers entering steep/rough terrain have the appropriate level of fitness.</li> <li>• Take particular care when carrying loads in steep/rough terrain.</li> <li>• Ensure that there is a means of communication with workers in steep/rough terrain in the event of an emergency.</li> </ul>
<b>Returning to site after extreme weather events</b>	Flooding, storms and cyclones with high winds cause trees to become unsafe and slips to occur.	<b>No</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volunteers to be advised immediately by email upon announcement of an extreme weather event not to visit their sites until further notice.</li> <li>• Staff to assess site risks based on location in liaison with landowners.</li> <li>• Staff to visit sites with high likelihood of damage using extreme caution, reporting any new hazards eg slips, fallen trees, hanging limbs to landowner for remediation.</li> <li>• Volunteers not to return to site until hazards removed or alternative routes provided. Volunteers to be advised of extra caution needed around specific hazards.</li> <li>• When visiting sites with potential damage, be alert to hanging tree branches, unstable trees and saturated ground.</li> </ul>
<b>Trips, slips and falls</b>	Uneven or wet ground, vegetation and debris underfoot can cause slips, trips and falls which could result in serious injury	<b>No</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watch your footing – take care when moving around the site, especially in areas of higher risk. Wear appropriate footwear with good tread.</li> <li>• Choose routes which avoid these hazards where possible.</li> <li>• Take particular care when carrying loads that might affect balance or visibility.</li> </ul>

<b>Grazes, Cuts and Scratches, Splinters</b>	From vegetation, fencing, rocks, mesh on trap boxes and splinters from wooden boxes.	<b>No</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure appropriate PPE is worn to protect skin, long trousers / long sleeves when in dense bush areas</li> <li>• Carry secateurs to cut any branches / sticks preventing safe access to traps.</li> <li>• Ensure that clothing / eyewear does not impede vision, eg large hats preventing overheard vision.</li> <li>• Volunteers / staff must have recorded and notified the team leader if they have any condition that could cause excessive bleeding.</li> </ul>
<b>Eye Injury</b>	From vegetation	<b>No</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carry secateurs to cut any branches / sticks preventing safe access to traps.</li> <li>• Ensure that clothing / eyewear does not impede vision, eg large hats preventing overheard vision.</li> </ul>
<b>Activity, or hazard category</b>	<b>Hazard Identification: what harm could occur and how?</b>	<b>Can this hazard be eliminated?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>If Yes: how have you eliminated the hazard?</b></li> <li>• <b>If No: what controls will you put in place to reduce the risk?</b></li> </ul>
<b>Wasps, bees and other insects</b>	Wasps and bees stings can be painful, with potentially serious health impacts for people allergic to wasp/bee venom. Other insect bites can cause discomfort or infection.	<b>No</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Team leaders must ask whether any member of the work party is allergic. It must be made clear that people who are allergic to wasp/bee venom will be working at their own risk.</li> <li>• Brief volunteers in advance to use insect repellent.</li> <li>• Make sure people know what to do if they encounter a nest or get stung.</li> <li>• Any eradication of wasp/bee nests must be performed by a competent party. Inform Project Manager immediately with GPS location of the nest.</li> <li>• Other insect bites (e.g. mosquitoes) should be treated appropriately to reduce the likelihood of infection.</li> </ul>
<b>Water hazards</b>	Open water (lakes, rivers, streams, coastal). Risk of drowning causing fatality.	<b>No</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid close proximity to water hazards where possible.</li> <li>• Never work alone near water hazards.</li> <li>• Take extreme care when crossing streams etc.</li> <li>• Do not cross waterways in flood or if there is the risk of flooding.</li> </ul>

<b>Emergency situations</b>	Minor injury or illness requiring first aid, may become serious if not correctly managed.	<b>No</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that an appropriate number and type of first aid kits are available and that the kit contents are within expiry date.</li> <li>• Ensure that there is at least one trained first aider on site, use the safety briefing to identify them so that everybody knows who they are.</li> <li>• Have a current Emergency Plan which includes the location of the nearest A&amp;E.</li> </ul>
	Serious injury or illness requiring emergency assistance, may result in fatality if not correctly managed.	<b>No</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that an appropriate number and type of first aid kits are available and that the kit contents are within expiry date.</li> <li>• Ensure that there is at least one trained first aider on site, use the safety briefing to identify them so that everybody knows who they are.</li> <li>• Have a current Emergency Plan which includes the location of the nearest A&amp;E and information of the worksite that can be relayed to emergency services.</li> <li>• Ensure that there is a means to contact emergency services (e.g. cellphone).</li> </ul>
	Fires, natural disasters, extreme weather and external factors may impact the site, resulting in property damage and serious injury or fatality.	<b>No</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have a current Emergency Plan that includes likely emergency scenarios and how to respond to them.</li> <li>• Communicate the plan to all workers and include in safety briefings.</li> <li>• Ensure that emergency equipment (first aid kits etc) on site are accessible, current and people know where they can be found.</li> </ul>
<b>Interactions with members of the public/antisocial behaviour</b>	Interactions with aggressive, abusive or intoxicated individuals may result in verbal abuse or physical attack	<b>No</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disengage from the situation if being abused – just walk away if you have to.</li> <li>• Seek assistance from other team members if necessary.</li> <li>• Call the Police if the situation escalates.</li> <li>• If serious, report the interaction to National Office.</li> </ul>
<b>Interactions with dogs</b>	Potentially dangerous dogs approach workers on site which may result in injury to workers	<b>No</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stay still if dog approaches, Call out to owner if concerned and owner is visible to let them know you are there. If no owner visible, make other members of the team aware.</li> <li>• If concerned, shoo the dog away, look for a stick to use in defence if needed.</li> <li>• Call dog control if the situation escalates and no owner found. 09 301 0101</li> <li>• If injury occurs, ensure someone records evidence including a photo of the animal to report to police and dog control.</li> </ul>

<b>Lone or isolated work</b>	A lone worker or workers in isolated locations are at particular risk should they become lost or injured. Risk of fatality.	<b>No</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Try to plan work so that exposure to this risk is minimised.</li> <li>• Awareness – highlight this hazard during safety briefings.</li> <li>• Implement a check in/check out system to ensure that workers in these situations are monitored.</li> <li>• Ensure that workers in these situations have the ability to communicate with others in the event of an emergency.</li> <li>• Have up to date lone worker procedure in place and communicated to all workers.</li> </ul>
<b>Covid-19 and other infectious diseases</b>	Potential for exposure to Covid-19 or other illnesses from other people. May result in serious illness, particular hazard for at-risk individuals.	<b>No</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comply with Government Covid-19 guidelines (as a minimum).</li> <li>• Take additional steps if you feel more comfortable doing so.</li> <li>• Stay at home, if you feel unwell to prevent risk of passing the virus to others.</li> </ul>