ARBCORE’S COVID-19 Specific - Safe System of Work

OVERVIEW

The following guidelines MUST be adhered to, the team must agree to this system of work and to police this system amongst each other on a day-to-day basis:

Any worker displaying COVID-19 symptoms must stay at home and isolate for a minimum of 14 days. **Do not go to work** if you have symptoms that could be COVID-19.

It is understood that testing of those with symptoms will become more readily available in the coming weeks/months.

It is still unknown whether individuals will have a level of immunity after having had symptoms.

GENERAL

Travel to work sites is to be in individual vehicles only.

Any necessary travel around a site is to be in individual vehicles or on foot.

Workers should not touch or enter other workers’ vehicles.

Workers are to maintain a **minimum** of two meters distance from one another at all times.

Workers to maintain a **minimum** distance of two meters from all persons found to visit the site. If a site needs to be shown to the crew by contract managers or the others, those individuals must agree to maintain this distancing. If visitors are not willing to maintain the two-meter minimum distancing, Arbcore staff should leave the site and inform Tristan Merry-Howe.

Workers are to have individual fuel cans, saws, felling aids etc.

No ‘joint lifting’ of material is permitted. It is acknowledged that cutting material up into smaller pieces to avoid ‘joint lifting’ will increase the amount of time jobs may take.

One designated worker is to be unloading/loading, driving and feeding the chipper each day. At the end of each day when it is re-loaded onto the trailer the chipper must be sanitised using Isopropyl 70%+ spray. If it is necessary to change operators during the day the controls must be sanitised using Isopropyl 70%+ spray.
AERIAL TREE WORK

MEWP

Wherever possible the MEWP should be used instead of climbing for the following reasons:

- The MEWP can be brought back to the ground using ground controls should the operator suffer an injury (thereby reducing the likelihood of close proximity emergency work).
- There are no ropes for the ground crew to de-tangle.
- The operator can return to the ground easily to re-fuel.

There must be only one operator in the basket at any one time.

The controls must be sanitised between users using Isopropyl 70%+ spray.

CLIMBING

Climbing should only be carried out where use of the MEWP is not possible.

Climbing kit should be touched by the kit’s user only.

Tangled lines on the floor when a climber is in the tree will inevitably occur and these will have to be released by the ground crew. The use of medical style gloves for this purpose is not appropriate as they are likely to tear. In this instance the ground person must sanitise their work gloves using Isopropyl 70%+ spray before and after touching the climber’s rope.

RIGGING

Where possible rigging should be avoided.

Where rigging is necessary gloves must be worn and the team have to acknowledge that they must not touch their faces or sneeze/cough into the gloves whilst wearing them. This is because the rigging line will be touched by both the climber and the ground crew. Gloves and metal rigging kit should be sanitised using Isopropyl 70%+ spray after the task is completed.

Ropes, harnesses, strops and other fabric-based equipment MUST NOT be sprayed with Isopropyl 70%+.
**RAMS / Maps / Job Sheets**

Completing the RAMS for each job in the usual paper-based way and passing it around to be signed is not viable during this period.

Instead, the RAMS will be supplied as a PDF to the group via our WhatsApp crew chat groups.

Each worker will need to open it on their phone, read it and sign it digitally then put a screenshot of the signed page on the group chat.

It is important to have a paper copy available for a member of the public or a panicked team member to use should there be an incident:

- One paper copy of the RAMS and location map will be printed and left in a designated collection point at the yard or can be sent digitally if workers have the ability to print a copy (this is the preferred option).

- The paper copy is to be kept on the dashboard of one vehicle such that any member of the public or a panicked team member can find it should there be an incident.

**EMERGENCY SITUATIONS**

Care is always taken when carrying out tree work, in the current environment the NHS is under strain; take even more care, do not take even calculated risks and always err on the side of caution. Do not feel rushed.

In the event of an emergency situation in which two or more workers have to be in closer proximity in order to help each other with first aid or any other unforeseen situation, the following additional measures must also be adhered to:

Medical masks and gloves must be worn and disposed of afterwards.

After the emergency is resolved, any equipment used is to be sanitised using Isopropyl 70%+ spray. Clothes should be changed afterwards and washed before re-use.

Resuscitation – The Rescue council have issued the following advice for CPR, this should be adhered to.

“If there is a perceived risk of infection, rescuers should attempt compression only CPR and early defibrillation (If a defib is available)”

For info, there is a defib available outside the front door of the CyB and NYA visitor centres.
**WELFARE**

With the introduction of using individual vehicles for travel to and around site and asking workers not to touch or enter other workers’ vehicles, it is not reasonable to ask workers to have hand wash stations installed in their vehicles or to use one in a communal vehicle.

Workers are asked to wear gloves at all times.

Workers will be supplied with hand sanitising gel.

Workers will be provided with Isopropyl 70%+ spray to sanitise tools and surfaces.

Workers will be supplied with face masks for use in emergency situations when close contact would be required.

**AGREEMENT**

This document will be supplied to all workers to review and sign if they agree to work with this system. Only workers who agree and sign this will come back to work.

Worker name:
I agree to all aspects of this document YES / NO
Signed:
Date:

Worker authorised to work by:
Signed:
Date: