

LEGISLATION

RISK ASSESSMENT

for DEER MANAGEMENT

ENGLAND & WALES
BEST PRACTICE GUIDES



Introduction

There are many aspects of practical deer management where personal health and safety or that of others should be considered. The aim of this guide is to highlight areas of risk and to encourage practitioners to consider the hazards and take steps to minimise them. There are legal requirements for employed/self employed people and employers which are described in the Management of Health & Safety at Work Regulations 1999 (MHSWR). Health and safety law generally requires that precautions are taken to avoid risk “so far as is reasonably practicable” and this is a good principle for individuals to adopt, using the MHSWR and advice from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) as a guide.

Hazards

Hazards in wild deer management fall into the 3 main areas of personal safety, third party/public safety and food safety. The list below gives some of the more detailed aspects that should be considered.



<p>Public Safety <i>Where people might enter, travel, work in deer areas. Confrontations when carrying firearms</i></p>	<p>Use of firearms <i>Firearms/ammunition storage and security Safe handling including maintenance Safe background for shot Hearing protection</i></p>
<p>Humane dispatch <i>Personal injury from live animal Third parties safety Safest method Procedure at deer vehicle collisions or in built up situations (see DVC and Urban deer guides)</i></p>	<p>Lone working <i>Personal injury First aid Communications</i></p>
<p>Rough or remote terrain/Harsh weather <i>Personal/third party injury Recovering injured parties First aid Exposure/exhaustion Communications</i></p>	<p>Vehicles and driving off road <i>4x4 and ATV use Approved routes Loads and loading Maintenance and hygiene</i></p>

<p>Working at height <i>High seats Tree climbing Vandalism</i></p>	<p>Incident planning <i>Deer vehicle collisions Disease outbreak Accident in remote area</i></p>
<p>Manual handling <i>Lifting/dragging of carcasses and manipulation in confined spaces(vehicles, deer larders) Lifting and manipulation of equipment such as high seats or larder waste bins</i></p>	<p>Working in deer larders <i>Slippery surfaces Scalding Head injury on rails/hooks Electricity and water Handling chemicals</i></p>
<p>Carcass handling <i>Injury from antlers, hooves, teeth and damaged bones Infection/cross infection</i></p>	<p>Using sharp tools <i>Knives Carcass saws, wood saws, chainsaws Loppers/pruners</i></p>
<p>Meat hygiene <i>Food safety is tackled in a different way to other areas of risk usually using a Hazard and Critical Control Point (HACCP) approach (see the Meat Hygiene guide).</i></p>	<p>Disease <i>Lyme disease and other zoonoses Spread of notifiable and other diseases Personal protection and hygiene</i></p>

The HSE website give comprehensive guidance, with examples, on how to conduct a risk assessment. There are also many safe practice guides in the agriculture topic area which are relevant to wild deer management.

Risk Assessment

The usual way to minimise risk is to carry out some form of risk assessment. The HSE guide “5 Steps to Risk Assessment” gives a good example of how to carry this out.

The steps are:

1. Identify the hazards
2. Decide who might be harmed and how
3. Evaluate the risks and decide on precautions
4. Record your findings and implement them
5. Review your assessment and update if necessary

In most cases the steps are easy to apply and you do not have to be a health and safety expert.

Recording your risk assessment

If you carry out a risk assessment, keep a record of it. This is a legal requirement if you are self employed or employ 5 or more people. A simple written record is equally useful for personal use, for helpers, could form part of a lease agreement, and could support you if an incident occurs.

If regular actions such as checking high seats need to take place the details of checks made should be also be recorded

The bulk of the work of maintaining a risk assessment record is done when it is first created but is important to review your risk assessment from time to time or if circumstances change and to record that you have done so.

An example of part of a simple Risk Assessment record is in Table 2:

Hazard	Who is at risk?	Controls	Further Action	Actions		
				By Whom	By when	Done?
Falling from high seat	Self, Co-workers, Others with legal access, Public	Regular maintenance. Check at each use. Exercise care when climbing. Attach “not for public use” or visual “No Climb” signs. Place away from most used public areas	Check all of current high seat stock as of date to the right	name	annually by (date)	yes/no/ date
Accidental discharge of firearm	Self, Co-workers, Public	Follow safety advice from sources such as DSC 1 qualification and current best practice	ongoing	all firearms users	ongoing	ongoing
Knife cuts/stabs	Self, Co workers	Cut away from self Awareness of others. Care in holding, carrying, sharpening, cleaning, storing in safe manner	ongoing	all users	ongoing	ongoing

Other considerations

Issues such as public liability insurance cover, training and how you deal with public relations should all form part of your health and safety “package”.

HSE Risk management (<http://www.hse.gov.uk/risk/index.htm>)

‘HSE 5 Steps to Risk Assessment’ (<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indgl63.pdf>)

HSE safe practice guides (<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/>)

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