

Toolbox Talk

Ground Conditions



Ground conditions can alter within a short distance, they can also alter throughout the course of the work due to the amount of use. You must assess the risk and fill out a risk assessment with the appropriate control methods in place taking into account that the area is likely to alter.

Types of conditions:

Holes:

These can create trip hazards. Holes should be marked out at the beginning of the working day or people should be warned about them.

Slopes:

Steps need to be cut into slopes in order to make it manageable. Check the condition of the steps as they will deteriorate with use.

Long Grass:

A Brushcutter needs to be used in order to clear the area and reveal any potential hazards

Stones:

These create uneven ground conditions. Care should be taken to clear the stones or an alternative route should be found.

Mud:

This can create a slippery and uneven surface. Care needs to be taken. If the site becomes too slippery or uneven, an alternative route should be found.

Flooded areas:

Stay away from these areas as it is difficult to know what is beneath the water. If possible pump out the water.

Weather conditions:

Weather can affect the ground conditions making the surface uneven, slippery, wet and hidden.

Key Points:

- ✓ You must always try to avoid working on difficult ground conditions. Don't ever take any unnecessary risks if you are unhappy with the conditions.
- ✓ Remember to discuss how ground conditions can be improved and act on this; you can create steps, find alternative routes or many other solutions.
- ✓ Remember ground conditions can change overnight so be aware of this.
- ✓ Vehicles can easily get stuck in poor ground conditions. Make sure plant does not get used if there is potential dangerous ground conditions. Always make sure when visiting your site that there are suitable working areas for plant if you need it.
- ✓ Any steps cut into a slope will need to be maintained because they will deteriorate over time with use and weathering.