

A Safe Workplace

A Workplace Safety and Health Manual for Your Community

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		Approved By: Harvey Bostrom
Subject: TSE-3	Lawn Care Equipment	Effective: April 01, 2005
		Revised: April 1, 2011

PPE Required: Safety glasses and forestry screen, hearing protection, gloves, long pants, long sleeved shirt, sunscreen, insect repellent, steel toe boots

Warning

- Wear close fitting clothes
- Read and understand the owner's manual
- Know where the controls are and what they do
- Never remove or disable guards or other safety devices
- Never push a mower with your foot
- Do not smoke while operating or fuelling gas driven tools
- See *Working Alone Procedure* (section III-C, G-10)
- See *Operating a Riding Lawn Mower Procedure* (section III-E, VLE-20)

Steps:

Weed Eaters

1. Check fuel cap for proper placement.
2. Ensure the right mix of fuel is used.
3. Only service when engine is off.
4. Ensure adequate supply of cutting string, and that it is installed correctly before starting.
5. Ensure that the cutting string mechanism is away from you and all others before starting.
6. Try and prevent cutting string from hitting fence and from throwing large rocks.
7. Shut down equipment when refueling.
8. Do not override any safety devices.
9. Repair or replace any guards or other protective devices immediately.

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Riding and Push Mowers

Steps:

1. Inspect work area and remove any objects that may cause injury or damage to the equipment. Objects, such as rocks, wire and sticks can be thrown at speeds above 270 KPH and travel a distance of 15 metres or more, causing death or serious injury.
2. Be aware that objects thrown by the mower may ricochet off buildings back at the operator.
3. Check the work area for any exposed propane, gas or electrical lines.
4. Know where the controls are and what they do.
5. Never take a child for a ride on a riding lawn mower.
6. Be alert and turn off mower if anyone enters the mowing area.
7. Before making adjustments or clearing jams in the cutting deck, remove spark plug wire(s). Rotating the blades may crank the engine.
8. Keep all four wheels on the ground when operating push mowers. The safety guards on the cutting deck are of no use if the front of the mower is tilted up to cut long grass. Use a weed-eater or scythe on long grass prior to finishing with a mower.
9. Use caution when cutting on sloping ground with a riding lawnmower. The owner's manual will specify the maximum degree of slope the mower may safely operate on.

Hedge Trimmers

1. Keep both feet on the ground and do not overreach while cutting
2. Do not trim hedges higher than your shoulders or cut from a ladder.
3. Remove sparkplug wire or unplug electrical trimmers before removing trimmings from the blade.
4. Always hold the trimmer with both hands while operating.

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Herbicide/Insecticide Sprayers

PPE Required: Face shield, cartridge type mask, disposables rubber gloves, coveralls, eyewash bottle.

General:

- Keep the product's MSDS in plain sight at the location of application.
- Read and understand the sprayer's owner's manual.

Steps:

1. Read the herbicide/insecticide label to determine recommended handling precautions.
2. Mix herbicide/insecticide solutions in a workshop where there are washing facilities. Wear disposable plastic gloves and a face shield when mixing concentrates. Mix and use only the amount of herbicide/insecticide that is necessary to treat the lawn.
3. If herbicides/insecticide are spilled on the skin, wash the contaminated skin thoroughly with soap and water.
4. Do not spray with equipment that has loose hoses or connections.
5. Use sprayers only in calm weather to reduce the risk of chemical drift.
6. Avoid contamination of waterways.
7. If a person who has been using chemicals falls ill or is suspected to have ingested some chemical, give first aid and call a doctor immediately. Ensure the doctor knows which chemical is suspected.
8. Always store the herbicides/insecticide in the original container.
9. Herbicides/insecticide should be placed in dry areas that are protected from freezing temperatures.

Disposal of herbicides and containers

Minimize disposal problems by buying and mixing only what you need. Rinse the empty concentrate container with water and pour on the target vegetation, or allow to soak into the bare earth, away from a drain or ditch. Empty containers should be punctured or crushed, but leave the labels legible.