

Potential Hazard Review

Physical Hazards

- Flying object; struck by
- Noise
- Striking against
- Vibration

Related Safe Work Practices

- Fuel Safety

Required Personal Protective Equipment

- Heavy duty, non-slip gloves
- Face shield and safety glasses
- Hearing Protective Device

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This SWP is dedicated to helping you avoid an injury or illness from known hazards and their consequences - laceration, cut puncture, foreign object in eye, abrasion, hearing loss, swelling, inflammation.

You are advised to follow these recommendations, read and follow this SWP and any related SWPs, complete any required or recommended training, and to obtain advice from a Qualified Person if you have any questions.

A Qualified Person is a person **designated** by the employer; and by reason of **training**, experience, or instruction who has demonstrated the ability to perform safely all assigned duties; and, when required is properly licensed in accordance with federal, state, or local laws and regulations.

All tasks require that you:

- Use the equipment in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the manufacturer. This includes following all signs and labels, and reviewing any manufacturer's operating manuals.

- If the instructions provided in the operating manual conflict with this SWP, then follow the instructions in the manual. The manufacturer's instructions prevail over this SWP.
- Review the safety data sheets (SDSs) for any chemical.
- Be trained on this SWP and those listed above as related. Training on SWPs must be completed before initial assignment. It is also recommended that you complete refresher training every two years.

BEFORE

- 1 Read and follow the manufacturer's operating manual.
- 2 Check that the throttle springs back to idle position.
- 3 Ensure that the cutter is tight.
- 4 Check area for stones, glass, metal and debris.
- 5 Ensure that the public is kept away from the starting and operating areas.
- 6 Wear a long-sleeved shirt/jacket.

DURING

- 7 Hold the unit firmly with both hands.
- 8 Start the unit on firm ground or other solid surfaces in an open area.
- 9 Maintain good balance and secure footing when operating.
- 10 Keep the cutter tool covered with the carrying guard.
- 11 Adjust harness and hand grip to suit work positions.
- 12 Be mindful of the direction your machine casts debris.
- 13 Keep unauthorized persons at a distance. Children, animals, onlookers, and helpers should be kept outside the safety zone of about 50 feet (15 meters).
- 14 Stop the machine immediately if anyone approaches.
- 15 Never swing the machine around without first checking behind you to make sure no-

one is within the safety zone.

- 16 Stop the engine before putting cutter down.
 - a) If the cutter tool gets caught (e.g. on a branch), stop the engine before yanking the tool free¹.
- 17 Use unit while standing on the ground level only.
- 18 Shut off engine before cleaning out clogged or stuck cutter, or before changing cutters.
- 19 Do not:
 - a) Leave running tool unattended
 - b) Wear short pants or sleeves
 - c) Use rigid blade in stony areas
 - d) Overreach –keep proper footing and balance at all times.

AFTER

- 20 Secure cutter to prevent fuel spillage and damage during transport.
- 21 Replace bent, warped, damaged or dull cutters.
- 22 Discard damaged attachments.

For any questions, please contact EHS at 415-831-2780.

¹ Corrective action for Case 5548