

Safe Work Procedure: Using a Gas or Electric Weed Trimmer

Department/Area:	Approved by:	Date Created:	Review/Revision Date:
Maintenance/Custodial	Workplace Safety and Health Committee	Nov. 15 , 2023	Annually

Potential Hazard	Risk level
Awkward/sustained postures -twisting	Low
Repetitive movements - twisting	Medium
Vibration - (hand, arm) increase effects with time	Low
Moving machinery	Medium
Noise	Medium
Flying debris can hit user	Medium
Other	

Risk control devices, personal protective equipment, and other safety considerations	Training/Reference info
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supportive closed toe footwear • Work gloves • CSA approved eye protection • Hearing protection • Shoulder Strap • Dust mask as necessary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Injury prevention orientation • Operations manual • On-the-Job training • Refueling SWP

Note: Common signs and symptoms of a musculoskeletal injury (MSI) can include pain, burning, swelling, stiffness, numbness/tingling, and/or loss of movement or strength in a body part. Report these to your supervisor.

The direct supervisor must ensure that employees who report to him/her are trained and follow this safe work procedure.

Steps to complete this task safely:

- Consult operator's manual for starting, storing and maintenance information.
- Wear all appropriate PPE, **including safety eye wear.**
- Shoulder strap should be in over the shoulder before beginning to work with the weed trimmer.
- When using the weed trimmer, move your feet to turn with the machine rather than repetitively twisting your back.
- Try to angle the trimmer head slightly into the area being cut.
- Always use the machine for its appropriate use. Do not try attempt to cut down items larger than is specified in the operators manual.
- If area being worked is causing excessive dust, wear a dusk mask.

- Take extra care when working in areas where hard debris could be picked up and thrown. Ensure that no one is near enough to be struck by debris.
- Let machine cool according to manufacturer guidelines before refilling it with fuel. Always use an appropriate funnel when refilling. Refuel in an area that is level and has adequate ventilation.