

# **POWER GROUNDSKEEPING EQUIPMENT**

## **A. General**

Personal protective equipment shall be worn when provided for a specific work assignment or as directed by the supervisor.

Employees should report to their supervisor any equipment or safeguard that is found defective.

An employee will not operate, lubricate, or provide maintenance on any equipment until trained in the operation, lubrication, maintenance procedures, hazards, and safeguards, and when he/she has been authorized to do so.

## **B. Personal Protective Equipment**

All employees who operate any power edgers or trimmers shall wear protective glasses, gloves, and ear plugs.

All employees who operate any power GROUNDSKEEPING equipment shall wear proper shoes.

## **C. General Operating, Powered Equipment**

A gas tank shall not be filled indoors, while the engine is running, or while a source of ignition is present in the immediate area.

Gasoline shall be stored or transported only in approved safety cans with "flashback" screens.

Spills of gasoline shall be cleaned up immediately.

The spark plug wire shall be disconnected before attempting to handle the blades of a mower or any repairs are to be done. The spark plug wire shall be disconnected when mower is to be lifted or carried.

**Power mowers shall never be operated without guards in place.**

Rocks, pieces of wire, etc., shall be picked up before mowing.

Power mowers (especially the blades) shall be inspected after striking an object or if a vibration should develop.

## **D. Riding Mowers**

A riding vehicle shall not carry a passenger other than the operator.

The source of power to an attachment of a riding vehicle shall be disengaged when the attachment is not in use or is being transported.

Riding GROUNDSKEEPING equipment shall not be operated on a steep slope.

When a riding vehicle is left unattended, the operator shall shift the transmission to neutral, set the parking brake, and disengage the attachment clutch.

**All riding type mowers shall be shut off before operators dismount the machine.**

**E. Walk Behind Mowers**

The operator shall maintain direct control of self-propelled, walk behind mowers. The operator shall adjust the ground speed to his/her individual gait for proper control.

The operator of a hand operated rotary mower shall not back up with the machine or turn and pull the mower by the handle in the reverse direction.

Rotary type power mowers should not be used near other employees.

The drive mechanism shall be disengaged before starting the motor or engine.

An engine or motor shall be stopped and an inspection made after striking a foreign object with a machine or if a vibration develops.

An engine or motor shall be stopped when clearing a clog or a jam or when removing an attachment.

Groundskeeping equipment shall not be left running, unattended at any time.

A rotary mower blade shall be stopped while traveling over loose gravel drives or walks.

**F. Edge Trimmer**

The cutting blades of an edger trimmer shall be covered with a guard to prevent foreign objects from being discharged into the operator's area or at an angle above 15 degrees from the ground.

The power shall be shut off when:

Converting from edging to trimming operation or from trimming to edging.

Moving from one location to another or when traveling over loose gravel drives and walks.

**G. Rotary Tillers**

The power to the tines of a rotary tiller shall not be used as a means to transport the tiller from one location to another location.

Rocks or other entanglements shall not be removed from the tines until the power has been shut off and all motion stopped.

The tines area shall be operated or shielded in such a manner as to prevent debris or other projectiles from being thrown.

An operator shall maintain direct control of a rotary tiller. The operator shall adjust the ground speed to his/her individual gait for control.