

LOCATION OF WORK	WRITTEN BY:	APPROVED BY:	DATE	LAST REVISION
All Schools	Lorie Carriere Jason Graham Donna Hancox	Gordon Howe	April 27, 2010	New

HAZARDS PRESENT	PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)	ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Severe cuts • Fuel Fire • Muscle strains & back injuries • Discharged objects • Toxic exhaust fumes • Equipment damage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety glasses • Protective footwear • Protective gloves • Long pants • Long sleeves • Hearing protection • High vis. vest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hedge trimmer orientation • Tie back long hair

SAFE WORK PROCEDURE

CHECK THE GENERAL CONDITION OF THE GAS TRIMMER:

1. Check the trimmer for signs of oil or gasoline leaks. Notify your supervisor if leaks are found.
2. Look for signs of damage.
3. Check the throttle trigger. The throttle trigger must move freely and always spring back to the idle position.
4. Remove all dirt and debris from the engine, check the cooling fins and air cleaner for clogging, and clean as necessary.
5. Make sure cutting attachment is securely fastened
6. Check that the spark plug boot is securely mounted on the spark plug – a loose boot may cause arcing that could ignite combustible fumes and cause a fire.
7. Inspect for loose parts (nuts screws, etc) and for cracked, bent warped or damaged guards.
8. Check the fuel level and fill if necessary. The gas trimmer uses an oil – gasoline mixture for fuel. Before fueling, clean the filler cap and area around it to ensure that no dirt falls into the tank. Shake the oil-fuel mixture before pouring.

CHECK THE AREA TO BE TRIMMED:

1. Clear the area of debris anything that can be picked up by the blades and thrown is a potential hazard to the operator and others.
2. When working close to the ground make sure no sand, grit or stones get between the cutter blades.
3. Look for power lines, wires or cables. The trimmer is not insulated against electric shock. Do not operate the tool in the vicinity of any power wires.

CONTROL OF THE TRIMMER:

1. Always hold the unit firmly with both hands on the handles while you are working.
Right – hand use – put your right hand on the rear handle and the left hand on the front handle
Left – hand use – put your left hand on the rear handle and the right hand on the front handle
2. Never attempt to operate the trimmer with one hand.
3. Do not overreach. Keep proper footing and balance at all times to prevent muscle strain and back injuries.
4. Never carry or transport the trimmer with the cutter blades moving. It must be carried only in the horizontal position.

STARTING THE ENGINE:

1. Operate and start the trimmer outdoors in a well ventilated area. The trimmer produces toxic exhaust fumes. Always stand so that the wind directs any exhaust fumes away from the operator.
2. Press the fuel pump bulb 8-10 times.
3. Set the choke lever to “1”.
4. Place the machine on the ground and hold the machine firmly on the ground with your left hand on the trigger. Pull the starter grip slowly with your right hand until you feel it engage and then give it a brisk strong pull. Do not pull out the starter rope all the way. Guide the grip slowly back into the housing to rewind it.
5. Set the choke to position “2”.
6. Hold the trigger and pull the starter grip until the engine runs.

STOPPING THE TRIMMER:

1. Push the red stop button.
2. The cutter blades continue to move for a short period after the throttle trigger is released. Do not touch the blades until they have stopped moving.

CUTTING WITH THE TRIMMER:

1. Hold the grass trimmer so the trimmer head is angled slightly into the area to be cut, keep the trimmer head horizontal.
2. Use a sweeping motion from side to side.

REGULATORY & OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- WS&H Act W210, Section 4, 5, 7, 7.1
- Mb. Workplace Safety & Health Regulations 217/2006, Part 16, Sections 16.1 – 16.18
- 2.1 Safe Work Procedures
- 6.1 Personal Protective Equipment
- 8.0 Musculoskeletal Injuries
- 35.0 WHMIS
- 36.0 Chemical Biological Substances
- Safe Work Tip – Out Door Heat Stress