

MOUNT SNOW - STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE

Topic: String Trimmers

Approval: Dave Moulton

Updated: November 7, 2012

PURPOSE:

These guidelines are to ensure that all employees participate in a safe manner minimizing the risk of injury while operating string trimmers. These guidelines include required personal protective equipment, pre-operational check procedures, and instructions on how to properly start and operate a string trimmer.

REQUIRED PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT:

- Employees are expected to refer to the owner's manual for manufacturer's recommendations.
- Eye Protection – Eyewear must meet ANSI Z87.1 standards.
- Ear Protection – Earplugs or earmuff type protection are acceptable.
- Protective clothing – long pants are required. No loose clothing, shorts are not allowed.
- Proper footwear - High traction boots. Boots should be worn above ankle for best support.
- Gloves – no-slip, heavy duty. This will help to reduce vibration.

SUGGESTED EQUIPMENT:

- Long pants
- Full face shield or mesh shield

PRE-OPERATIONAL CHECK:

Remember to use oil specifically designed for 2 cycle air-cooled engines. Most string trimmer fuel is a 50:1 mix of gas and 2cycle oil. Refer to owner's manual for recommendations. To insure consistency, only your supervisor should be allowed to mix gas and oil. Mixed fuel goes stale faster than straight gasoline. Don't prepare more mixture than can be used in a month.

- Check to make sure the guard is securely fastened.
- Check muffler guard – make sure it's not bent and is still attached.
- Check to see if the trimmer head is securely attached.
- Check oil and fuel.
- Make sure that the handle and gear case are secure.
- Fuel cap should be hand tight.

PROCEDURE: STARTING THE STRING TRIMMER:

Use the following procedure when starting your trimmer:

- Set trimmer on the ground or a solid surface before starting
- Check gas and oil
- Give the primer bulb about 4 pumps.

- Engage the stop switch to the on position, Turn choke lever to the on position, Try to start. Once it turns over, turn the chock off to prevent flooding.
- Once started, let the trimmer warm up for about 5 minutes before starting to trim.

PROCEDURE: OPERATING THE STRING TRIMMER

- Use a right to left motion to keep discharge away form you.
- Never operate within 15 feet of any other person.
- Check for hidden objects and hazards, such as glass bottles, rocks, holes, stumps, etc. before using the trimmer in an area with tall grass.
- Use extreme caution when working around cars and buildings. Objects can be thrown.
- For hand held trimmers (without a harness) be aware that the muffler is hot, and operate in such a manner as to avoid being burned by the muffler.
- Let engine cool before refueling.
- When done trimming for the day let the trimmer cool down before washing. Always try to leave the trimmer with no gas left in it.

I have read and understand the Mount Snow policy regarding string trimmer operation, general maintenance and safety;

Employee Name: _____

Employee Signature: _____

Date: _____