



Hazards	burns, noise, vibration, electric shock
Tools/Equipment	
Employee Group(s)	Facilities Management – Grounds & Transportation

Required PPE:



Safety Shoes



Ear Protection



Eye Protection



Gloves



Hard Hat



Dust Mask

SAFE WORK PRACTICES

- Do not perform the procedure or operate the equipment unless you have passed a chain saw safety course, have been appropriately trained and have been authorized to do so by your supervisor.
- Inspect required personal protective equipment (PPE) and replace if required.
- Do not wear loose-fitting clothing, dangling jewelry, etc.
- Complete a pre-use inspection. If any defects are noted, the equipment must be removed from service and the supervisor must be notified immediately to ensure equipment is repaired.
- Operators must have read and understood the operator's manual.
- Ensure operator's manual for equipment is available to operators.
- Do not use the machine in bad weather conditions, especially when there is a risk of lightning. This decreases the risk of being struck by lightning.
- Thoroughly inspect the area for wildlife where the machine is to be used. Wildlife may be injured by the machine during operation.
- Thoroughly inspect the area where the machine is to be used and remove all stones, sticks, wires, bones, and other foreign objects. Thrown objects can cause personal injury.
- Before using the machine, always visually inspect to see that the cutter or blade and the cutter or blade assembly are not damaged. Damaged parts increase the risk of injury.
- Follow instructions for changing accessories. Improperly tightened blade securing nuts or bolts may either damage the blade or result in it becoming detached.
- The rated rotational speed of the blade must be at least equal to the maximum rotational speed marked on the machine. Blades running faster than their rated rotational speed can break and fly apart.
- Blade thrust is a sudden sideways, forward or backward motion of the machine, which may occur when the blade jams or catches on an object such as a sapling or a tree stump. It can be violent enough to cause the machine and/or operator to be propelled in any direction, and possibly lose control of the machine. Blade thrust and its related hazards can be avoided by taking proper precautions as given below.

NOTE: All PPE, tools and equipment shall be used in accordance with provincial OH&S legislation, manufacturer's specifications, applicable standards and codes of practice.



- Maintain a firm grip with both hands on the machine and position your arms to resist blade thrust. Position your body to the left side of the machine. Blade thrust can increase the risk of injury due to the machine moving unexpectedly. Blade thrust can be controlled by the operator if proper precautions are taken.
- If the blade binds, or when interrupting a cut for any reason, switch the machine off and hold the machine motionless in the material until the blade comes to a complete stop. While the blade is binding, never attempt to remove the machine from the material or pull the machine backward while the blade is in motion, otherwise blade thrust may occur. Investigate and take corrective actions to eliminate the cause of blade binding.
- Do not use blunt or damaged blades. Blunt or damaged blades increase the risk of jamming or catching on an object, resulting in blade thrust.
- Always maintain good visibility of the material being cut. Blade thrust is more likely to occur in areas where it is difficult to see the material being cut.
- If you are approached by another person while operating the machine, switch the machine off. There is an increased risk of injury to other persons being struck by the moving blade in the event of blade thrust. Other brush cutter safety rules:
- **Do not operate near electric power lines.** The unit has not been designed to provide protection from electric shock in the event of contact with electric power lines. Consult local regulations for safe distances from electric power lines and ensure that the operating position is safe and secure before use.
- Do not use an attachment extension with this tool attachment. The additional length will make this attachment difficult to control and could cause injury.
- Use the shoulder strap to reduce user fatigue and help in maintaining control of the tool during use.
- Do not wear multiple shoulder straps simultaneously. When wearing a shoulder strap, ensure that no other wearable interferes with the release and removal of the strap.
- Do not use the tool near anything that is burning or smoking such as cigarettes, matches, or hot ashes.
- To reduce the risk of health hazards from vapors or dust, do not use tool near toxic, carcinogenic or other hazardous materials such as asbestos, arsenic, barium, beryllium, lead, pesticides or other health endangering materials.
- Keep bystanders away while operating the machine. Thrown debris can result in serious personal injury.
- Always use two hands when operating the machine. Holding the machine with both hands will avoid loss of control. Hold the machine by the insulated gripping surfaces only, because the cutting line or blade may contact hidden wiring. Cutting line or blades contacting a "live" wire may make exposed metal parts of the machine "live" and could give the operator an electric shock.
- Always keep proper footing and operate the machine only when standing on the ground. Slippery or unstable surfaces may cause a loss of balance or control of the machine.

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- Do not operate the machine on excessively steep slopes. This reduces the risk of loss of control, slipping and falling which may result in personal injury. When working on slopes, always be sure of your footing, always work across the face of slopes, never up or down and exercise extreme caution when changing direction. This reduces the risk of loss of control, slipping and falling which may result in personal injury.
- Keep all parts of the body away from the cutter, line or blade when the machine is operating. Before you start the machine, make sure the cutter, line or blade is not contacting anything. A moment of inattention while operating the machine may result in injury to yourself or others.
- Do not operate the machine above waist height. This helps prevent unintended cutter or blade contact and enables better control of the machine in unexpected situations.
- When cutting brush or saplings that are under tension, be alert for spring back. When the tension in the wood fibers is released, the brush or sapling may strike the operator and/or throw the machine out of control. Use extreme caution when cutting brush and saplings. The slender material may catch the blade and be whipped toward you or pull you off balance.
- Maintain control of the machine and do not touch cutters, lines or blades and other hazardous moving parts while they are still in motion. This reduces the risk of injury from moving parts.
- Carry the machine with the machine switched off and away from your body. Proper handling of the machine will reduce the likelihood of accidental contact with a moving cutter, line or blade.
- When transporting or storing the machine, always fit the cover on metal blades. Proper handling of the machine will reduce the likelihood of accidental contact with the blade.
- Only use replacement cutters, lines, cutting heads and blades specified by the manufacturer. Incorrect replacement parts may increase the risk of breakage and injury.
- When clearing jammed material or servicing the machine, make sure the switch is off and the battery pack is removed. Unexpected starting of the machine while clearing jammed material or servicing may result in serious personal injury.
- Use care when using around decorative plants and other obstacles. Accessories will cut/damage many materials.
- Do not operate the tool without the guard in place. The guard must be attached properly during use. Operating the tool without the guard will cause serious injury.
- Do not use tool with a damaged cutter head. Cracked or broken pieces can be thrown.
- Do not operate the tool without the front handle and hip barrier in place. The front handle must be attached properly during use. Use both hands when operating the tool, according to the attachment instructions. Maintain a firm grip. Using one hand could cause loss of control and result in serious injury.
- Do not use the tool as an edger. Do not tilt tool to create a right angle to the ground. Keep brush cutter head parallel to the ground. Guard cannot protect against flying debris in this orientation.
- Keep face, hands and feet clear of moving parts at all times. Moving parts can cause severe lacerations.
- Brace for unexpected movement when contact is made with a hard object. Loss of control could result in serious injury.
- Thrown objects may ricochet off of hard surfaces, such as walls, trees, and rocks and cause injury. When possible, do cutting by hand in closed in areas.

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- Carry the tool by the front handle to avoid accidental starting. Proper handling of the tool will prevent injury.
- Always turn off the tool when transporting from one location to another. Do not carry tool with finger on the trigger. Accidental starting can cause serious personal injury.
- Do not immerse in water or spray with a hose. Do not clean with a pressure washer. Water entering a power tool will increase the risk of electric shock. Store tool indoors.
- Do not store the power tool on or near to fertilizers or chemicals.
- Always turn off the tool and then remove battery pack before changing or removing accessories.
- Always use common sense and be cautious when using tools. It is not possible to anticipate every situation that could result in a dangerous outcome. Do not use this tool if you do not understand these operating instructions or you feel the work is beyond your capability.
- Maintain labels and nameplates. These carry important information. If unreadable or missing, contact a MILWAUKEE service facility for a free replacement.