

Snow Blower Safety & Maintenance

Objective: to ensure crew members understand and can demonstrate the safe operation of a snow blower.

Training Materials: snow blower, operator's manual.

Personal Protective Equipment: insulated work boots, hat, warm gloves, layers of clothing, eye protection and hearing protection.

Lesson: *Snow blowers are an efficient way of removing snow from paved surfaces that are too small for a larger plow to reach. Snow blowers shouldn't be used on gravel surfaces as they can pick up and throw the stones at high speed.*

Plan snow clearing patterns around the direction of the prevailing winds. While this can be difficult on some days, snow blowing is more efficient and visibility is improved when you blow with the wind.

Direct blowing snow away from people, buildings and vehicles.

Maintenance tips:

Always perform a circle check on the blower before loading it on the truck or trailer.

Be sure to take enough gasoline in an approved container. Disconnect the spark plug wire before performing any maintenance tasks.

Check the oil levels and top up if necessary.

Check the air filter regularly and clean or replace if necessary. Refer to the operator's manual

for regular maintenance recommendations.

Safe operating tips:

1. Don't use a snow blower unless you have been properly trained and have read the operator's manual.
2. Wear warm footwear with good traction on slippery surfaces.
3. Know how to stop the engine quickly in case of emergency.
4. Scan the area to be plowed and remove visible debris.
5. Be aware of the 15 m danger zone around the blower and make sure no bystanders are near.
6. Make sure you are working in enough light to see where you are going.

• Each year emergency rooms see patients with severed or mangled fingers because they didn't think before putting their hands in the snow blower chute to clear blocked snow. Always turn the engine off, disconnect the spark plug and be sure the auger has stopped rotating before attempting to clear a blocked chute.

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