# GROUNDSKEEPING SAFETY



Bureau of Workers' Compensation PA Training for Health & Safety (PATHS)







### Personal Protective Equipment



#### **Head Protection**

- Hard Hat



- Baseball Cap



- Straw Hat





#### **Eye/Face Protection**

Safety Glasses



- Chemical Splash Goggles



- Face Shield





### **Hearing Protection**

Earplugs



- Semi-aural Devices



- Ear Muffs



### **PPE-Respiratory Protection**



Respirators shall be provided when necessary to protect employees from breathable hazards.

"Dust Mask;" half or full face respirator.

If half or full face respirator you must be medically qualified and then fit tested.

No beards or excess facial hair if using half/full face respirator.





Hand Protection - Gloves









### **Body Protection**

- Long Sleeve Shirt
- Long Pants
- Coveralls
- Cotton Socks





#### **Foot Protection**

- Steel Toed Shoes
- Sturdy Work Shoes
- Toe Guards





Steel-toed safety boots with oilresistant soles

#### More on Foot Protection



- Shoes Should be Sturdy
- Have Non-Slip Soles
- Waterproof
- Laces Correct Length



Is this a safe work shoe?

Much better! Non-slip, sturdy, waterproof.





#### From the Weather

#### SUMMER:

- Use sun screen (at least SPF 30).
- Wear a hat to protect from sun.
- Wear sunglasses (could be safety glasses\*)
- Drink plenty of water.
- Take regular breaks.
- \* Must meet ANSI Z87-1 requirements



#### From the Weather

#### **WINTER:**

- Wear a hat
- Keep ears covered & warm
- Dress in layers
- Wear gloves
- Take regular breaks
- Drink plenty of water





#### From Bugs

#### TICKS:

- Wear light colored clothes.
- Wear long sleeve shirts.
- Tuck pants into socks or boots.
- Wear high boots.
- Wear a hat.
- Use tick repellant (but not on face).



#### From Bugs

#### STINGING INSECTS:

- Be aware of where you are working.
- Wear long sleeves.
- Wear high boots.
- Use insect spray.
- Don't jump around or swat at them.
- If allergic, have "kit" with you.



#### From Poisonous Plants

#### POISON IVY/SUMAC:

- Be aware of where you are working.
- Wear long sleeves.
- Wear high boots.
- Wear gloves.
- Remove gloves before touching eyes/skin.
- Wash clothes worn separately.

## **Equipment Safety**



- Tractors, Riding/Push Mowers/Golf Carts:
  - Inspect roll over protection (ROPS).
  - Wear safety belts (if applicable).
  - Get on/off safely, not quickly.
  - Practice "slope safety."
  - Never leave unattended while running.
  - Drive slowly and follow traffic rules.

# Lawn Mowing Safety



- Walk around area before mowing to look for objects in grass that could be projectiles.
- Don't mow when raining, lightning, or grass is slippery.
- Start and refuel mowers outdoors; don't refuel when engine is hot.
- When mowing slope: across with push mower, up & down with riding mower.
- Always wear appropriate PPE.
- When cleaning mower blades always disconnect spark plug.

## **Snow Blower Safety**



- Make sure all people and pets are out of the way before you begin.
- Wear appropriate PPE.
- Do not put your hand into the snow blower to remove impacted snow or debris; turn machine off, wait a few seconds, use broom handle or stick.
- Clear snow up and down the face of slopes, not across.
- Do not leave blower unattended while it's running.
- Fill unit with fuel before starting and let cool down before refueling.



- Operate at safe speed (equivalent to a fast paced walk).
- Ensure all occupants keep arms, legs, feet, and hands inside cart.
- Give pedestrians the right of way.
- Obey traffic signaling devices.
- Engage parking brake when cart not in use.





- Check tire inflation before operation.
- Check brakes before moving too far.
- Check for possible battery leaks.
- Never leave keys in unattended cart.
- Carry only recommended # of passengers.

How many people should ride in this cart?



No more than two.



#### **BATTERY CHARGING**

- Wear Safety Goggles and appropriate hand protection at all times.
- Do not recharge the battery near an open flame or source of ignition.
- Do not smoke near the recharge station.
- Only an approved battery charger should be used (e.g. those designed to shut off automatically when the batteries are fully charged).



### **BATTERY CHARGING** (Continued)

- Pour baking soda on all spilled battery acid before cleaning up the spill.
- Wash skin thoroughly with cold water if you make contact with battery acid.
- Disconnect all battery charger cords before using the golf cart.

### **Tool Safety**



#### Hand Tools:

- Inspect to ensure in safe condition.
- Ensure cutting tools are sharpened.
- Wear appropriate PPE.
- Carry safely.

Is this tool safe to use?



NO! Handle tapered & taped; should be replaced.



## **Tool Safety**



#### Power Tools:

- Inspect power cords.
- Inspect tools regularly.
- Keep chain saws sharpened.
- Do not disable safety guards.
- Keep feet/hands away from cutting edge.
- Size equipment to operator.
- Always use with GFCI.



#### WARNING - DANGER !!!



- ONLY USE TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT YOU HAVE BEEN TRAINED TO OPERATE!!!!
- NEVER ATTEMPT TO USE ANY EQUIPMENT UNLESS YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN PROPER TRAINING!





### Hazardous Materials



- Know the hazards of materials you work with.
- Check all container labels.
- Check with your Supervisor about appropriate PPE.
- Clean equipment and clothing properly.
- Know the location of emergency eyewash/ showers.





# Tips for Safe Lifting



- Plan the Lift.
- Remove anything in your way.
- Pushing is easier than pulling.
- Pulling is easier than carrying.
- Get help for heavy/bulky loads.



# Tips for Safe Lifting



- Warm up your muscles with stretches.
- Test the weight of the load first.
- Face the way you need to move.
- Hold the load close to your body.

# Tips for Safe Lifting



- Plan where to set the load down.
- Rest more often when it is hot/humid.
- Take more time to warm up your muscles in the cold.
- Take more breaks if using tools/equipment that vibrates.

# **Shoveling Snow Safely**



- Stretch/exercise "lightly" before beginning.
- Push snow instead of lifting it (where possible).
- Walk to where you want to dump the snow, don't throw it.
- Don't throw snow over your shoulder or to the side (causes you to twist).
- Pace yourself; take breaks if tired or out of breath.
- Drink plenty of water; avoid caffeine/nicotine before beginning.

# **Snow Clearing Safety**



- If using a power broom wear safety glasses & remember brush is shooting stones, twigs etc.
  - do not use if people nearby!
- Wear gloves when spreading salt by hand.
- Remember salt can cause snow/ice to refreeze.
- When driving snow removal truck/vehicle always use mirrors when backing up.
- Wear appropriate footwear and take smaller steps when walking on snow/ice.

# Vehicle Safety



- Inspect vehicles at least weekly to ensure they're in safe operating condition (e.g. tires safe, lights and brakes working, etc.).
- Before operating vehicle ensure horn, lights, and turn signals are working.
- When backing a vehicle: always sound horn three times, use side mirrors, back up slowly.
- Always observe posted speed limits.
- Always give pedestrians the right of way.

## Before You Begin a Task



#### YOUR SAFETY CHECKLIST:

- Assignment understood.
- Have proper PPE.
- Have proper tools.
- Tools & PPE inspected & safe.
- Equipment in safe condition.
- Hazardous materials labeled.
- Work area inspected for hazards.

### Remember



# YOU NEED TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY! DON'T "SHORT CHANGE" YOURSELF!



#### **Contact Information**



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# Questions



