

 DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY	<i>Policy Sponsor:</i> Assistant Vice President Facilities Management	<i>Approval Date:</i> January 2010
	<i>Responsible Unit:</i> Facilities Management	<i>Revisions:</i>
Service: Environmental Services		Shop: Grounds and Horticulture
Hazards Identified: Dust and/or debris, noise, sun burn, tripping hazards, uneven ground, hitting head, fire, heat		
Personal Protective Equipment Required: Safety boots, hard hat, safety goggles or safety glasses, face screen, hearing protection, long trousers, safety gloves, sunscreen		
Training Required: Before using this type of equipment employees must be trained by a competent person in its proper use and care. The operator's manual, tool safety markings and instructions for manufacturer approved attachments must be understood and followed by the operator at all times and reviewed regularly. Employees must be trained in the proper use and maintenance of all required PPE before operating this equipment.		

1. Only properly qualified employees are to operate this equipment.
2. The required personal protective equipment must be used at all times while this equipment is being operated.
3. Always read and follow the manufacturer's operating manual, particularly information about start-up, operation, shut-down and maintenance.
4. Check the blower before using to sure that it is in good working condition and free of grass clippings, leaves or other dirt.

5. Ensure that all guards and shields are firmly in place. Do not use a blower that is missing safety equipment.
6. Follow the information found on all safety labels. Always replace missing or illegible labels.
7. Always start the blower on firm ground or some other firm surface.
8. If the blower is a back pack never start it on your back.
9. Make sure the blower air pipe and/or fan intake are not blocked to avoid air flow restriction.
10. Always ensure that the blower is warm and running smoothly before use.
11. Always ensure there are no other people in the area where you will use the blower.
12. Never point the blower exhaust pipe in the direction of other people.
13. Stop using the blower if people come into the area where you are working.
14. Keep long hair tied up or tucked under your hard hat to avoid it being sucked into the blower intake.
15. Never touch the muffler or cylinder assembly until the blower has cooled off.
16. Never attempt to clean, refuel, make adjustments or carry out repairs with the engine running, or before it has cooled off.
17. Do not run the blower in an enclosed area.
18. Never put the blower down where debris may be sucked into the fan.
19. To avoid damage to the start cord or starter during start up, do not allow it to snap back into its housing.
20. Only use this type of equipment for its intended purpose.