### Equipment/Task Name
Leaf Blower Equipment (Handheld and backpack)

### Departments Impacted
- Physical Plant (Landscape)
- Biology (Meeman Field Station Caretaker)

### Purpose
A leaf blower is a gardening tool that propels air out of a nozzle to move debris such as leaves and grass cuttings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TASK</th>
<th>HAZARDS</th>
<th>CONTROLS</th>
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</table>
| 1. Preparing Blower for Use | Exposure to fuel mix: Skin and eyes | When checking/adding fuel, always wear appropriate chemical resistant gloves and safety glasses or face shield.  
- Fire/Explosion  
  - Never fuel equipment indoors; keep fuel away from open flame or sparks.  
  - Clean up fuel spills immediately; do not start engine until fumes have dispersed.  
  - Dispose of spilled fuel per HazCom training: contain, label for disposal, and contact EHS. |
| 2. Operating Blower | Muscle strain |  
- Pull cord straight back; provide for clearance of arm and elbow.  
- Use short, sweeping motions, avoid twisting and bending repetitively.  
- Use safe lifting training – back injury prevention training.  
- Hearing damage  
  - Wear earplugs or earmuff headset.  
  - Inhalation of dusts/particulates by self and/or others  
  - Avoid creating excessive dust – pre-wet or wet area as needed.  
  - Wear N95 dust mask as needed.  
  - Pause work to allow pedestrians - bicyclists - motorists to pass.  
- Eye or other injury to self and/or others  
  - Wear safety glasses or goggles.  
  - Pause work to allow pedestrians- bicyclists - motorists to pass.  
  - Set up safety cones or barricades, as needed, if work affects areas with pedestrians, etc.  
- Insect bites  
  - Wear long pants or equivalent protection, band at ankle if needed.  
  - Be aware of potential for yellow jacket ground nests.  
  - Be aware of surroundings; spiders and other biting or stinging insects may be present. |
| 3. Storage of Blower | Fire |  
- Do not place hot equipment on or near combustible materials or flammable liquids.  
- Allow engine to cool before storing – avoid contact with combustibles.  
- Store so fluids do not leak out of equipment. |
Safe Operating Procedures

SOPs are designed to help employees identify hazards, limitations, PPE, & safety training for specific equipment/tasks.

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4. Procedure for malfunctioning or broken equipment

Bodily injury

- Obtain Accident Prevention Tag-mark equipment “Do Not Use” – specify problem or hazard.
- Whenever possible isolate power source so equipment cannot be used. (Lock Out-Tag Out).
- Notify shop and/or take equipment to shop.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required Personal Protective Equipment</th>
<th>Required Training</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Hearing protection</td>
<td>• Operation of blower</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Safety glasses</td>
<td>• Personal Protective Equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• N95 respirator</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Gloves</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Equipment Procedures/Requirements

1. Operate equipment in strict accordance with Manufacturer’s instructions. Only authorized users can operate equipment.
2. Report any observed defect or safety hazard to your supervisor immediately.
3. Where any object handled would possibly cause injury to feet if dropped, safety shoes will be worn.
4. Where any object handled could possibly cause cuts, punctures or abrasions to hands, appropriate gloves will be worn. (Exception: where rotating machinery presents a greater hazard of entangling gloves, they are optional at the supervisor’s discretion).
5. Keep hands, hair and loose clothing clear of all moving parts and air intakes.
6. Stop the unit immediately if it suddenly begins to vibrate or shake.
7. Always turn off the engine before setting the unit down.
8. Never insert any foreign object into the air intake or outlet openings.
9. Operate the blower only when there is adequate clearance from people, buildings, vehicles or other obstructions.

Additional Precautions for fuel powered engines

1. Always operate in an open well-ventilated area or vent the engine exhaust directly outdoors.
2. Never fuel the engine while running or in the presence of an open flame.
3. Wipe spilled fuel immediately and wait for fumes to disperse before starting the engine.
4. Stop the engine before performing any maintenance or troubleshooting.
5. The ignition system should be disabled to prevent accidental start of the engine.

SOP ID  | G003  | Related Documents | Creation/Revision Date | 07/20/2018

Suggestions, questions, or comments? Please contact EH&S