

LANDSCAPING SAFETY



Always stand off to the side of the hopper when feeding materials

General Safety:

- Use equipment in accordance with manufacturer's instructions
- Minimum PPE Required: hearing protection, eye protection, safety toed shoes, high-visibility clothing
- Do not wear jewelry, and keep long hair tied up and secured
- Be sure of footing on slopes and damp surfaces
- Check area for power lines and other hazards
- Review Heat Stress and Hand & Portable Power Tools Factsheets/Toolbox Talks

Mobile Wood Chipper:

- Inspect chipper each day before use
- Emergency shut-offs work properly
- Check for damaged or loose hardware
- Before feeding material, run chipper at lowest speed to ensure proper working condition, listen for unusual sounds.

When feeding material into the hopper:

- Keep feet and hands outside of the hopper at all times
- Stand off to the side of the hopper when operating the chipper
- Always place the butt end of brush or limbs in first
- Place shorter material on top of longer material to prevent placing hands inside the hopper
- If needed, use a long stick or tool to push shorter material through
- Ensure no trip hazards are present especially near hopper opening
- Small materials that can be picked up, should not be run through the chipper



Eye Protection is required when operating powered landscaping equipment

Weed Whacker:

- Remove loose rocks, sticks and other potentially harmful debris from work area
- Over four thousand injuries related to grass trimmers occur each year, of which one third are eye injuries

Self-Propelled/Riding Mowers:

- Do not defeat guards or safety controls
- Use equipment in accordance with manufacturer's instructions
- Inspect the mower before each use
- Stay away from steep slopes, do not make sharp turns on slopes
- Watch for people, stop work when necessary for pedestrian or vehicle safety
- Perform a general sweep of the area you will be mowing and remove rocks, large sticks, tools, etc. that could be propelled by mower



Fueling Gas Power Equipment:

- Ensure the equipment is "cool" when refueling
- Use metal gas cans with self-closing lids and flame arrestors
- Label gas cans correctly (i.e. 2 cycle gas)

FM-OHS:

fm-ohs@virginia.edu

(434) 297-6379