



**HARVARD**

Campus Services

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, SAFETY &  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

**Date: 10/8/09**

**Toolbox Talk #25**

# LANDSCAPING SAFETY

## General Safety

- Use equipment in accordance with manufacturer's instructions
- PPE Required: Hardhat, Hearing Protection, Eye Protection, Safety Toed Shoes
- Wear close fitting clothing without cuffs on gloves and pants
- Do not wear jewelry, 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
  - Check that In-feed Hopper is securely attached
  - Emergency shutoffs 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

## 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
- One third of those injuries are eye injuries

## Self propelled/Ride-On 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)



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



Eye Protection is required when operating powered landscaping equipment

### Environmental Health, Safety & Emergency Management

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