



HARVARD

Campus Services

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, SAFETY &
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

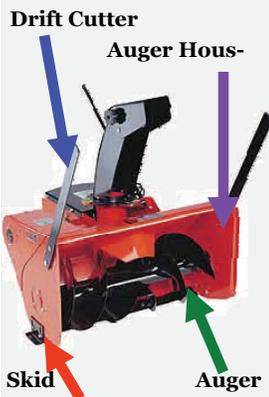
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Toolbox Talk #22

SNOW THROWER SAFETY



Never place your hand in or near the chute to clear a clog, use a stick/broom handle



**Environmental Health,
Safety & Emergency
Management**

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With winter upon us, let's take some time to go over some basic do's and don'ts of snow thrower usage

Do's :

- Read the manufacturers operating manual prior to use.
- Use only attachments and accessories approved by the manufacturer
- Wear close fitting clothing appropriate for cold weather
- Check engine oil before each use
- Perform visual inspections before using
- Raise the skids for gravel or crushed rock surfaces
- Disengage all clutches and shift into neutral before starting
- Walk slowly and maintain good footing while operating
- Keep clear of discharge at all times.
- Stop the motor immediately after striking an object or feeling abnormal vibrations.
- Run the machine for a few minutes after throwing snow to prevent freeze up of the impeller or collector.
- Allow the engine to cool for a few minutes before storing indoors.

Don'ts:

- Do Not make adjustments while spark plug wire is connected.
- Never place your hand in the auger housing or the chute to clear a clog. Turn the motor off and disconnect the spark plug, now use a stick or broom handle to clean out the clog.
- Do Not run the motor indoors.

Other Snow Removal Safety Issues:

- Use proper shoveling technique (bend from the knees, throw the snow in front of you, work at a comfortable pace, use an ergonomic shovel for pushing snow)
- Make sure you have proper gear to be working outside for extended periods of time. Wear gloves that offer both dexterity and warmth.
- Immediately stop/seek medical attention if you experience; fatigue, nausea, chest pains, back pain, lightheadedness, disorientation/confusion.
- Use plenty of ice-melt to minimize slipping hazards.
- Take breaks as necessary; to warm up or rest