

Job Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Job Site Location: \_\_\_\_\_

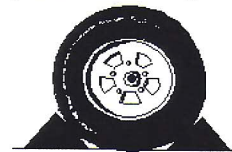
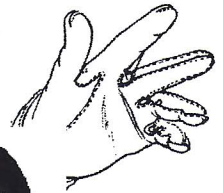
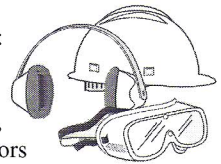
Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Start Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Finish Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Foreman/Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

## Topic 312: Brush Chipper Safety

**Introduction:** Wood chipper/shredders are a quick way to clean up brush piles from the job; however, they can be very dangerous, even fatal, if not used properly. Contacting the chipper knives, being struck by the chipper hood, being struck by projectile debris, amputations by the chipper knives, and being struck by brush being fed into the chipper are the most common causes of injuries while using a wood chipper/shredder. Following are recommendations for the safe use of wood chippers:

### Safety Guidelines for Chipper Operations:

- **Read the operators manual** and ensure that all operators are trained on the proper and safe use of the wood chipper shredder. Do not operate the machine until you have been properly instructed in the machine's operation and fully understand it.
- **Wearing appropriate** personal protective equipment is crucial to an operator's safety. Recommended gear includes: Eye protection (safety glasses or helmet with shield), hearing protection, protective clothing (no loose clothing to become entangled in brush), slip resistant boots, and gloves (no gauntlet type gloves).
- **Inspect the wood chipper** each time before use. Check for defects such as broken or missing hood latches and pins, or cracked and worn hinges, inspect the swivel discharge for proper operation, inspect the hydraulic pump and motors for leaks, and inspect the entire unit for loose nuts or bolts. Replace any damaged or missing machine parts before use.
- **Before towing the unit**, inspect the tires and the safety hitch to make sure it is closed and pinned to prevent opening on the road. Safety chains should be crossed under the tongue of the chipper and hooked onto the towing.
- **Make sure** you are able to properly tow and back up the chipper.
- **Never work alone** while using a wood chipper. Have someone else there with you at all times during operation.
- **Read and follow** all the safety decals on the machine before operation.
- **All safety devices** and controls, such as emergency shut-off devices, should be tested and confirmed to be in proper working order before the wood chipper is used.
- **Block the chipper's tires** before operating
- **Make sure** there are no obstructions in the infeed before starting the engine.
- **Ensure that** the discharge is pointed in a safe direction, away from pedestrians, cars, and homes, etc.
- **Before starting** the wood chipper shredder make sure that the hood that covers the chipper knives is completely closed and latched.
- **Make sure that** all internal machine parts have come to a complete stop before opening the hood covering the chipper disc or drum of the wood chipper.
- **When you are ready** to begin putting materials into the wood chipper run it at the lowest possible speed and have someone else listen for any noise that might indicate broken or loose parts. If an unusual noise is discovered DO NOT use the wood chipper. Have a professional check out and/or repair the wood chipper if necessary.
- **Keep your hands and feet** out of the in-feed hopper. Do not use your feet or hands to force material into the chipper.
- **Lay the shorter material** on top of the longer material or use a long branch to push the shorter material through the in-feed hopper.
- **Always feed brush** and tree limbs butt end first into the hopper of a wood chipper.
- **Work from the side** of the wood chipper shredder. This will allow you to have quick access to the emergency shutoff, and will also minimize the risk of getting tangled in the branches.
- **Move away** from the wood chipper once it has grabbed the material intended for shredding.
- **Load leaves** and small twigs directly into the wood chipper truck, not into the in-feed hopper.
- **Keep the area around** the wood chipper shredder clear of any tripping hazards.
- **Always operate** the machine at full-throttle when chipping.
- **Do not fuel** the chipper while the engine is running or hot.



**Conclusion:** Brush chippers run at extremely high speed and can quickly pull in a hand or foot. Therefore, use extreme caution While operating a brush chipper and observe the preceding guidelines.

### Work Site Review

Work-Site Hazards and Safety Suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_

Personnel Safety Violations: \_\_\_\_\_

### Employee Signatures:

(My signature attests and verifies my understanding of and agreement to comply with, all company safety policies and regulations, and that I have not suffered, experienced, or sustained any recent job-related injury or illness.)

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These guidelines do not supercede local, state, or federal regulations and must not be construed as a substitute for, or legal interpretation of, any OSHA regulations.