

# Machine Safety Pt. 2

Creative Roots Landscaping

# Accidents Most Occur When?

You probably know the answer - but here is a reminder: **the second half of the day.**

As the body works it begins to create or build on sleep deprivation. Another important point is that sometimes the second half the day can be rushed because of light (time of year) or commitments made after work.

The combination of the two results in increasing chances for injuries to occur.

# **Hand held Machines**

- Line Trimmers
- Backpack and Hand Blowers
- Hedgers
- Cut off Saw
- Extension Tools

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# Line Trimmers

## What is a Line Trimmer?

A line trimmer is a tool used to maintain consistent height of lawn edge and to trim lawn blades hanging into the garden bed.



## Dangers

- Shooting grass, rocks, sand and more at the operator, bystanders and every window within a 100ft radius
- Trimming landscape lighting and wiring
- Irrigation that is above ground level (fixed or stuck)
- Destroying plants and tree trunks

Ensure all personnel are out of the shooting range and you are situated away from surrounding property susceptible to damage. Keep an eye on where you are heading and if there is any objects in your way.

# Blowers

## Backpack

- Has a good amount of weight on them making it easier to tip over
- If used for too long can make shoulders and back sore - Break and stretch to keep everything loose
- Very loud can cause hearing loss if hearing protection isn't used



## Handheld

- Not as heavy and doesn't have the same power
- Also can cause hearing loss
- When blowing into tight areas both blowers can shoot particles back at user



# Hedgers

## Handheld Hedgers

- It's long set of blades in such close proximity to your hands makes it much easier to injure your hands
- Carb cleaning time.. Sometimes when the carburetor on machines isn't clean the blades continue to move at idle
- When moving be sure not to catch or scrap the blades on cables, ladders, buildings, fences to avoid damage to property and equipment



## Extension Hedgers

- While the extension hedgers for the power head do lengthen the distance between hand and blade it is still very possible to injure hands
- When transporting this equipment it should be folded up or put away with protective guard on
- Moving up and down a ladder this equipment should be off or in prime condition without the blades engaged or moving



# Cut-Off Saw

- Cut off saws come with many types of blades. Generally we use a diamond tipped blade to cut brick, stone and aggregate. We also use a large zip disc to cut metal rebar lengths.
- Optimal running speeds are 12,000 SFPM and 8,000 SFPM for wet saws
- A person should never be positioned with body or face over the machine while in use
- A safe location should be determined before operation
  - This prevents thrown objects injuring people or damaging property
- Eye protection, ear protection, work pants, long sleeve, steel toe boots and dust mask is all the necessary equipment to run this machine
- Proper use of these machines will ensure no kick back, broken/ruined products, and a safe working environment for those around. It can be hard work if there is many cuts to be made, stay hydrated and out of the heat if possible



# Extension Tools

These are all tools that attach to a power head.



## Pole Chainsaw

- Used to remove out of reach branches
- Kick-back still applies but is less prone to cause damage
- Do not put hands anywhere near blade while the power head is running



## Power Broom

- A rather safe tool but does have a strong backward push and creates a lot of dust



## Hard Edger

- Kicks sparks, soil and rocks in many different directions
- Make sure all people and objects are out of the way



# PPE

You are required to wear  
**all** this PPE when using  
**any** power extension  
tools

- Safety glasses
  - Steel Toe boots
  - Ear protection
  - Spatial awareness
  - Letting someone else know you are using this equipment
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Hey !



**Stay Safe Out There !**