



JOB AID HAZARD AWARENESS INFO

SNOW BLOWER

A snow blower is a machine for removing snow from an area, such as a driveway, sidewalk, roadway or runway. The snow is moved using an auger and impeller. It can use either electric power or a gasoline or diesel fuel engine to throw the snow.

Hazards Involved/Arise

- Shearing, cutting, severing and drawing-in of body parts
- Fracture, sprain or strain due to slips or trips
- Struck by snow, ice or other objects thrown by snow blower
- Eye injuries due to objects thrown by snow blower
- Hearing loss
- Heart attack due to unaccustomed exertion and cold
- Fire or explosion from liquid fuel leak or spill
- Electrocution from damaged/ inadequate electrical cords
- Carbon monoxide poisoning in poorly ventilated areas



People Affected

- All employees
 - Contractors
 - Customers
- In particular:
- Landscapers
 - Snow removal workers

Existing Controls

- Provide well-engineered and properly maintained snow blowers suitable, for the work
- Train workers on hazards, safe operation, and required personal protective equipment
- Schedule daily circle check and preventative maintenance by a competent person
- Do not wear loose clothing or scarves or draw strings that can snag on rotating parts
- Use slip-resistant safety footwear, safety glasses, high visibility garments, hearing protection
- Start gasoline engine snow blowers outside
- Stay alert for traffic, pedestrians, pets
- Perform several light passes instead of waiting for all the snow to accumulate during storms
- Direct the discharge away from people and vehicles
- Before unclogging the discharge chute: turn off; wait for the blades to stop; unplug or remove key and remove spark plug cap. Use a stick or tool to clear any blockages - NEVER use your hand! Stored energy may cause blades to move.
- When refueling, avoid open flames and only do so when engine is cool
- Lock or tag-out defective equipment

Content developed by WSPS Advisory Committees

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For more information, contact
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