

What are the hazards and how might they harm?



Cuts, lacerations and amputation from sharp blades, incorrect use of equipment



Trip injuries from obstructions, falls on uneven ground and slopes



Impact injuries from flying debris



Eye injuries from flying debris



HAVS from overuse of equipment



Impact injuries from moving vehicles



Explosion or fire as a result of ignition of petrol

What PPE should the individual wear?



What other precautions should be taken?

Do not exceed the total use time per day allocated to your particular machine

Leaf blowers

Safety Task Card STCBG 08

Safe System of Work

1. You must wear reinforced toe cap safety boots, tough overalls with long sleeves and legs, goggles, gloves and hearing protection when using equipment. In addition, a high vis vest or jacket should be worn when working in adjacent to roadways and in car parks.
2. Use barriers or signage to restrict access to the work area, particularly when working in areas where there is likely to be pedestrian or vehicle traffic.
3. When transporting equipment in a vehicle or trailer, it must be turned off, the fuel lines turned off, the tank upright and the machine held in position.
4. Inspect the area for trip hazards and remove any objects that may be discharged by or cause damage to the equipment.
5. Check that guards are in place and in good condition, that the emergency stop works, there are no fuel leaks, that the air filter is clean and that there is no grass or other debris around the engine or exhaust manifolds.
6. Select the right nozzle for the task. A round nozzle should be used on uneven ground.
7. Most handheld blowers are designed to be used by either hand; however, some are designed to be used with both hands and must be operated as specified in the manufacturer's instructions.
8. Place equipment on firm ground and direct the exit port away from yourself and others, before starting it, following the manufacturer's instructions.
9. If designed to be used with a harness this must be worn.
10. Sweep the blowing arm from side to side, keeping it below waist height, and blowing debris away from you.
11. Direct nozzle to a designated spot where material can be disposed of.
12. Never direct airflow towards yourself, others or animals.
13. Stop work immediately if any person or animal approaches the area of operation

If you have any concerns, stop and speak with your line manager before proceeding

List any additional hazards or risks you have identified, and control measures required to manage these.

Leaf blowers continued

Safety Task Card STCBG 08

Safe System of Work

14. Keep hands warm, do not grip equipment tightly and take frequent breaks to avoid fatigue.
15. Clean foliage or other debris from the engine housing and muffler at regular intervals.
16. Turn the machine off when refueling, making any adjustments, or if you hear unusual noises from the equipment. Switch off the fuel tap when leaving equipment unattended and when finished.
17. The equipment must be turned off and have cooled down before refueling it in a designated area, away from sources of ignition and in the shade. Where required use a funnel and clean up any spillages immediately. Small spillages can be wiped up and a spill kit must be used for larger spills.
18. Follow the controls in the relevant COSHH Product Assessment and ensure the correct fuel type is used and correctly mixed with two-stroke oil where applicable.
19. Never smoke or handle ignition sources while refueling

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