

DuPage County Environmental, Safety, Health & Property Loss Control Program

Leaf Blower Safety

Purpose: To avoid injury to Operators using leaf blowers.

Allergic Reactions: if you have severe allergies (such as insect stings) make sure your Supervisor and co-workers know about the allergy and what to do in event you have an allergic reaction. Those with severe allergies to insect stings should consult with their physician about carrying a prescription medical kit.

Required PPE: Safety begins with wearing the proper Personal Protective Equipment in this case:

- Wear wrap around shaded safety glasses or goggles as flying debris such as a small pebble can be thrown up into the eyes due to 100mph winds created by a leaf blower.
- Hearing protection
- Safety boots
- Work gloves
- Long pants
- If operating in a dusty area wear a disposable dust mask

Recommended PPE:

- Long sleeved shirt
- Head covering to protect from sun
- Safety vest

Operation: Be sure to have read the manufacturers manual on safe operation. In addition:

- Know how to stop it.
- Never use it indoors or while on a ladder.
- Fuel it when the engine is cool and never smoke while fueling.
- Do Not use it to spread chemicals, fertilizers or mulch.
- Be aware of your surroundings particularly other staff and pedestrians. The same flying dirt or pebble that poses a hazard to the operator can pose a hazard to others. If others come within 25 feet of your operation either shut-off the blower or point it skyward until the others are beyond 25 feet away.
- Remove any debris such as bottles, cans, glass, light weight debris that could ricochet causing injury or damage.
- Never point the nozzle at another person, vehicle or property.
- Always shut off blower before putting it down or changing attachments.
- Never perform maintenance or repair work on the blower without first shutting it off and disconnecting its spark plug.