



# Hedgetrimmer Use

## What Personal Protective Equipment is required?

When operating this equipment wear:

- Hearing protection ear muffs or ear plugs
- Safety goggles or face screen with prescription glasses
- Snug fitting and durable clothing, jean or long pants no shorts or cut-offs
- Heavy duty non-slip gloves
- Safety boots
- Do not wear clothing/items that could get caught in equipment

## What should I do prior to operating?

- Prior to operating any equipment review the operator's manual to familiarize yourself with the equipment.
- Inspect the equipment as outlined in operator's manual including the following:
  - Check trimmer for loose screws, bolts, or damaged/broken parts replace broken parts
  - Clear the work area of bystanders
  - Inspect the shrubs for hidden wires (Christmas lights), posts and trash

## How do I safely operate the equipment?

- Keep people away from starting and work areas
- Do not operate trimmer above chest height
- If working on taller shrubs use a stepladder.
- Keep your hands and body away from the blades.
- Work slowly and plan your cuts before you make them
- Stop the engine before putting the trimmer down
- Always shut equipment off before leaving it unattended
- Take occasional rest breaks to avoid fatigue

## How do I safely add fuel?

When adding fuel observe the following

- If required mix fuel and oil as per operator's manual.
- Always mix fuel outdoors
- Always shut off the motor
- Let the motor cool before adding fuel
- Do not smoke or place hot objects near fuel
- Open fuel cap slowly to release pressure gently
- Tighten fuel cap carefully after refueling
- Move the machine away from the area of refueling before trying to restart.
- If fuel is spilled on machine, wipe up the spillage and allow for the remaining fuel to evaporate
- If fuel is spilled on your clothes change your clothing and wash any parts of your body that has come in contact with the fuel
- If fuel is leaking from the machine remove from use until repaired.

## What are some of the hazards?

- Wearing loose clothing that could result in getting caught in moving parts
- Hearing loss by failing to wear hearing protection properly
- Suffering eye or face injury from not using eye and face protection
- Electrical shock from cutting an electrical cord accidentally
- Strain injury from twisting, use your legs/arms to position the weed eater.
- To prevent strain injury pre-stretch before work.

## What if I have other concerns?

If you have any concerns or questions speak to your:

1. Supervisor,
2. Health and safety representative, or
3. Contact EHS