



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

Hedge Trimming Safety

Purpose: To avoid injury by our **Public Works as well as workNet DuPage summer staff** when using hedge trimmers. 

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.

PPE: 

- Wear long sleeves and long pants
 - Safety Vest
 - Head covering for sun protection
 - Safety boots
 - Gloves
 - Safety glasses with side shields or safety sunglasses with curved sides or goggles
 - Hearing protection
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- Inspect trimmer before use for loose parts such as the handle and tighten it
 - For gasoline fueled never smoke while fueling fill while the trimmer is on or motor is still hot from use
 - Never smoke while using a trimmer to avoid smoke getting in eyes
 - Never use electric trimmers in the rain, on wet grass or shrubs, or near water
 - Always use an undamaged extension cord rated for outdoor use, and plug it into an outlet with a ground fault circuit interrupter (or use a GFCI-equipped cord).
 - Keep cords safely looped behind you
 - Wear safety goggles, ear protection, work gloves, nonslip work boots, and a long sleeve shirt and pants
 - Don't overreach, especially when on a ladder
 - Keep both hands on the trimmer, and fingers and other parts of your body away from the blades when trimming
 - Turn off the power and wait for the blades to stop before adding fuel or removing debris
 - Never circumvent the safety "latch/button" requiring you to keep a finger on it to keep the trimmer working, once removed the trimmer would shut off
 - If the trimmer becomes lodged disconnect the power before trying to dislodge it.
 - Trim in the direction away from yourself; not back and forth, downward or towards yourself
 - Use a blade cover if available when carrying and storing a trimmer