

DuPage County Environmental, Safety, Health & Property Loss Control Program Weed Eater / Wacker Safety

Purpose: Establish Weed Eater / Wacker safety precautions and procedures.

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:

- Long pants
- Safety boots
- Gloves
- Hearing protection
- Safety glasses with side shields or safety sunglasses with side shields, or goggles

Recommended PPE:

- Head covering to provide sun protection
- Safety vest
- In dusty areas a disposable dust mask
- Long sleeve shirt

Safety:

1. Read Operating Manual
2. Before beginning to cut vegetation, clear the area of stones, sticks and other debris.
3. If gasoline powered be sure the engine is cool before filling and do not smoke while fueling
4. Check to determine if there are any loose parts, belts or ineffective guards. If found notify your Crew Leader and do not operate until repairs are made.
5. If equipped with a neck strap adjust for comfort
6. Never operate above waist height
7. Start the engine on firm ground
8. Hold with two hands to about 2 inches above ground for the cutters to operate properly
9. Operate with a side to side motion while walking forward
10. Stop the unit abruptly if anyone comes within 50 feet, because weed eaters can throw debris
11. Return to idle speed when not trimming
12. Stop the engine prior to setting it down
13. After unit cools secure it to avoid gas spillage and or damage when on vehicle
14. Never perform maintenance when it is running
15. Before changing cutting wire shut engine off and disconnect spark plug