


## Work Health And Safety: Safe Work Practice: Garden & Maintenance

### Blower operation

 Risks	Risk Level	Risk Controls
Damage to ears from noise of blower	Likelihood: D Consequence: 2 Rating = HIGH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restrict clients, animals and public from work area. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ear protection to be worn by workers.
Damage to eyes and other parts of body from particles blown by blower	Likelihood: B Consequence: 3 Rating = HIGH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restrict clients, animals and public from work area. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eye protection to be worn by workers. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> First aid kit available for prompt treatment of injuries.
Manual handling injury from moving or using the blower	Likelihood: D Consequence: 2 Rating = High	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Staff competent in manual handling
Damage to property or animals from particles blown by blower	Likelihood: C Consequence: 4 Rating = MODERATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Staff to assess environment and remove or isolate potential targets. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restrict clients and public from work area. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> First aid kit available for prompt treatment of injuries.
Vibration (white finger) injury from moving or using the blower	Likelihood: C Consequence: 4 Rating = MODERATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Staff to alternate use of mower and other equipment between them from one job to the next. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Staff to only use blower for 30 minutes before having a break.
Fire or explosion from petrol fumes	Likelihood: C Consequence: 4 Rating = MODERATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Refuelling outdoors only and only when engine is OFF – no smoking and clean up any petrol spill before starting the engine, petrol to be kept in shade and container closed when not in use. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fire extinguisher to be kept close to the refueling area. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> First aid kit available for prompt treatment of injuries.
Poisoning from petrol	Likelihood: C Consequence: 4 Rating = MODERATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ensure that when not in use petrol container is kept in the van or ute out of reach of children
Dangerous carbon monoxide fumes if blower operated in confined space.	Likelihood: C Consequence: 4 Rating = MODERATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Do not operate blower in a confined or unventilated space
Injury to worker from hazards in the setting	Likelihood: C Consequence: 4 Rating = MODERATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Staff to assess environment and remove or isolate potential targets. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> When working near road/ footpath the operator or if necessary a watchperson will monitor pedestrian/ traffic and work to cease if a unauthorised person comes within 10 metres of the machine. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> First aid kit available for prompt treatment of injuries.

**Equipment required:.**

<i>Mercy Services equipment</i>	<i>Others equipment</i>
Blower, fuel, oil, fire extinguisher (CO <sup>2</sup> ), mobile phone, sun screen, first aid kit, yard work gloves, Manufacturer's instruction manual	
<b>Personal Protective Equipment required:</b> ear protection, eye protection, trousers, work boots	

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Worker behaviour</b>	<b>Client/other's behaviour</b>
Preparation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ensure you are familiar with the handbook of instructions for use of the blower.</li> <li>2. Make sure the blower is the right tool for the task at hand (a broom or shovel may be more suitable).</li> <li>3. Apply Personal Protective Equipment</li> <li>4. Transport the blower to the work area</li> <li>5. Only start work if sure there will be enough daylight for the duration of work</li> <li>6. Ensure other people are at least 10 metres away from where you are working.</li> </ol>	
Operation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Turn on blower, by placing it firmly on the ground</li> <li>2. Place one hand on the machine and operate the starter with the other hand.</li> <li>3. Make sure your attention does not slip while operating the blower.</li> <li>4. Ensure your footing is solid.</li> <li>5. Take care of footing on slopes or wet ground.</li> <li>6. Rotate jobs or take rest breaks every 30 minutes to prevent fatigue or the development of vibration whitefinger.</li> <li>7. Walk, never run.</li> <li>8. Stop and switch off the engine if you hit an object.</li> <li>9. Do not use blower if is making unusual noise or vibration</li> </ol>	There should be no unauthorised/unprotected people within 10 metres of the blower when in operation.
Completion	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Stop the engine whenever you leave the blower.</li> <li>2. Allow the machine to cool if storing in confined space</li> <li>3. Clean machine</li> <li>4. Store machine in a ventilated area</li> </ol>	

**As at 05/03/2015 this Safe Work Practice is authorised for use in:**

<i>Service</i>	<i>Position</i>
Home Maintenance	Gardener/Maintenance Assistant
Home Maintenance	Maintenance Assistant

**Date for review of safe work practice:** March 2018 (or if injury or changes require)

## COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT

### Blower operation

Employee \_\_\_\_\_

Assessor \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Desired Outcome:**

To use blower to disperse dry and loose waste without injury

**Knowledge required:**

Worker must have read manufacturers operating manual for the blower

Performance Criteria	Competence demonstrated	Comment
<b>Preparation</b>		
Familiarise self with instruction manual for blower		
Assess that blower is appropriate tool		
Apply Personal Protective Equipment		
Transport blower safely		
Only start work when sufficient time		
Ensure area is clear of unauthorised people		
<b>Operation</b>		
Turn on blower – while it is on ground		
Place one hand on machine and operate starter with the other hand		
Maintain attention to job		
Ensure stable footing		
Exercise caution on sloping or wet ground		
Rotate jobs after 30 minutes		
Walk – never run		
Stop and switch off engine if an object is hit		
Do not use blower if is making unusual noise or vibration		
<b>Completion</b>		
Stop engine when leaving the blower		
Allow machine to cool if storing in confined space		
Clean machine		
Store machine in a ventilated area		

Is the worker assessed as being competent?     YES     NO

Any required follow up action/training: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of employee..... Date.....

Signature of assessor..... Date.....