

Hazard Alert



Snowblower

Hazard Summary

A worker sustained a serious hand injury while clearing snow from a walkway. The snowblower had clogged up with snow and the injury occurred when the worker reached inside the chute in an attempt to clear the obstruction. The Power Take-Off (PTO) had not been disengaged before leaving the tractor to clear the chute and the safety system interlock incorporated into the tractor seat was not maintained as per manufacturer's recommendations.



Recommendations

- Before servicing or clearing a snowblower, park the equipment securely and ALWAYS shut off power to the equipment. Allow an additional five seconds for blades to stop rotating after the power is shut off. Be aware of possible stored energy still left in the equipment that may suddenly release when an obstruction is cleared from the blades or chute
- Always be alert when working around snow blowing equipment and NEVER place your hand down the chute or around blades
- Use an appropriate tool to unclog snow from rotating parts
- Employers must advise workers of the hazards of the job task and make sure workers are properly trained to do the job safely
- Equipment must be operated and maintained according to the manufacturer's recommendations. NEVER remove or alter safety guards or devices, and be aware of all warning labels

Legislated Requirements

- Section 12(1)(c) of the *Occupational Health & Safety Act* states that an employer shall ensure that such information, instruction, training, supervision and facilities are provided as are necessary to ensure the occupational health and safety of the workers.
- Section 30.3(1) of the *Occupational Health & Safety General Regulations* states that the employer shall ensure that machinery is erected, installed, assembled, started, operated, used, handled, stored, stopped, serviced, tested, adjusted, maintained, repaired and dismantled in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications.
- Section 30.6(3) of the *Occupational Health & Safety General Regulations* states that the employer shall ensure that an employee has been adequately trained in lockout procedures for the particular situation.



To report a serious workplace injury, contact the 24/7 Occupational Health and Safety Emergency Line at 902-628-7513

