

### *SWP Purpose*

The purpose of this SWP is to establish written guidelines for using gas brush saws safely, to reduce risk of injury to the user and others in the vicinity.

### *Scope*

All GDTA workers will comply with the guidelines in this SWP and manufacturers' instructions.

### *Responsibilities*

Responsibilities apply to the Trip Manager/Volunteer Lead, all workers, and the Health and Safety Committee.

It is the responsibility of the Trip Manager/Volunteer Lead to

- Maintain the tool, in compliance with the SWP and manufacturers' instructions.
- Reinforce to workers that any recommended controls must be applied consistently
- Require that this SWP be implemented
- **Visually inspect each brush saw to ensure it is in good working order – Verify pre-season maintenance and inspection is completed by Equipment Manager**

It is the responsibility of the Workers to

- Comply with this SWP and follow manufacturers' instructions
- Ensure recommended controls are implemented and used appropriately.
- Immediately report any concerns or incidents to the Trip Manager/ Crew Lead

It is the responsibility of the Safety Committee to

- Maintain this Safe Work Practice
- Perform periodic audits to assess that these requirements/SWP are being acted upon.
- Reinforce that recommended controls are to be implemented and used appropriately.

### *Hazards*

Hazards due to worker behavior include fatigue, psychological factors such as stress, or lack of familiarity with the tool or the task. Environmental hazards may be caused by poor weather, extreme heat, poor lighting, uneven terrain/footing. Hazards due to equipment can be caused by poor maintenance and inspection practices. Hazards include ergonomics relative to manual lifting and sustained use of the brush saw, such as lifting/twisting and constant vibrations. The saw blade is sharp, and is a cutting edge, introducing risk of injury. Flying debris can also cause injury for workers in the vicinity. Unsafe refueling can cause fire risk.

### *Controls*

Controls may include elimination/substitution, engineering, warnings, administrative, and/or PPE. Guidelines are presented below. Additional SWP examples are included, following.

- Wear eye protection (e.g. safety glasses with side shields) and a face shield
- Do not operate the brush saw while wearing shorts (long pants or chaps over shorts only)
- Use hearing protection
- Use safe footwear
- Wear vibration reducing gloves or take breaks if any tingling is felt in hands after 15 min of use.
- If using the brush saw in dry and dusty conditions, use a disposable respirator/face mask
- Use a shoulder strap where possible to reduce ergonomic injury/strain
- Always inspect the brush saw before use, including integrity, excessive wear/damage; if the brush saw condition appears poor, worn, broken, or in any way unsafe, tag it for replacement/repair and remove it from service
- Ensure that the guard is secure
- During operation, move your feet to turn rather than repetitively twisting your back
- Try to angle the brush saw head slightly into the area being cut
- Always use the machine on the appropriate materials; do not try to cut items larger than is specified in the operator's manual
- Take extra care when working in areas where hard debris could be picked up and thrown; ensure that no one is near enough to be struck.
- Let the machine cool for 2-3 minutes prior to re-fueling. Use a funnel to reduce spills, **place a spill collection pan below filling nozzle where possible** and fuel in an area with adequate ventilation.
- Turn off the machine prior to adjusting the brush saw.
- Familiarize yourself with brush saw operation before using it
- Machine **MUST** be turned off when passing people on the trail
- Swamper, shall eye and ear protection and stay 10 meters behind brusher
- Gloves should be used while sharpening or changing blades

**SAFE Work Procedure Job Title or Task: Gas Weed Trimmer**

<b>Department / Area:</b> Maintenance	<b>Approved By:</b> J. President	<b>Date Created:</b>	<b>Review / Revised date:</b>
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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Potential Hazards:</b> Fill in those that apply</p> <p><b>H M L risk for injury</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Awkward / sustained postures – twisting</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Forceful exertions</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Repetitive movements - twisting</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vibration – (hand, arm) increase effects with time</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Compression</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Sharp points / edges</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Pinch points</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Materials falling</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Surfaces causing falls</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Moving machinery</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Chemicals</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Biological pathogens</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Electrical</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Extreme heat / cold</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Noise</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Combustibles / flammables</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> flying debris can hit user</p>	<p><b>Personal protective equipment / devices required / other safety considerations</b></p> <p>-Supportive closed toe footwear</p> <p>-Work gloves</p> <p>-Eye protection (goggles)</p> <p>-Hearing protection</p> <p>-Shoulder Strap</p> <p>-Dust mask as necessary</p> <hr/> <p><b>Training / Reference information</b></p> <p>-Injury prevention orientation</p> <p>-Operators manual</p> <p>-In house training</p>
<p><b>Note:</b> Signs and symptoms of a musculoskeletal injury (MSI) can include pain, burning, swelling, stiffness, numbness/tingling, and/or loss of movement or strength in a body part. Report these to your supervisor.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Employers must ensure that workers are trained and follow this SAFE Work Procedure</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Steps to perform this task safely:</b></p> <p>-Consult operators manual for starting, storing and maintenance information</p> <p>- Wear PPE and shoulder strap before beginning to work with the weed trimmer</p> <p>- When using the weed trimmer, move your feet to turn with the machine rather than repetitively twisting your back</p> <p>- Try to angle the trimmer head slightly into the area being cut</p> <p>- Always use the machine for its appropriate use. Do not try attempt to cut down items larger than is specified in the operators manual</p> <p>- If area being worked is causing excessive dust, wear a dusk mask</p> <p>- Take extra care when working in areas where hard debris could be picked up and thrown. Ensure that no one is near enough to be struck by debris</p> <p>- Let machine cool according to manufacturer guidelines before refilling it with fuel. Always use an appropriate funnel when refilling. Refuel in an area that is level and has adequate ventilation</p>	

### *Training*

Workers must be adequately trained. On the job/scenario or demo-based training is useful. Workers should review the operator's manual prior to use. If a worker is involved in an accident, training should be reviewed.

### *Resources, References, Definitions*

<https://www.stihl.co.uk/eu-vibration-directive.aspx>

### *Revision History*

<u>Revision</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Description of Change</u>	<u>Personnel Involved</u>
REV 0	Feb -2020	New SWP	D Yanchula
REV 1	May 2020	Items in bold above	D Hockey, D Borthwick, D Yanchula, J Gruttz, J Bateson
Rev 2	Feb 2023	Changes in BOLD	D Yanchula