

Toolbox Talks are intended to facilitate health and safety discussions. Find more Toolbox Talks on the [Occupational Safety web page](#).

Before Operating

- Read the manufacturer’s operating manual and understand the controls prior to use.
- Wear proper clothing for working outside for extended periods.
 - Warm and sturdy footwear with slip-resistant soles or add on traction with slip-on ice cleats.
 - Wear clothing in layers with an outer water repellent shell.
 - Head coverings, mittens or gloves
 - Sunglasses may be necessary to protect the eyes from sun glare.
 - Hearing protection is recommended.
- Perform a pre-operation visual inspection.
- Do not remove or disable guards or safety devices.
- Check engine oil and fuel levels before each use.
- Protect yourself from carbon monoxide poisoning by starting and running a gas-powered snow blower outside, never in an enclosed area—even if the door is open.
- Use an outdoor extension cord for electric models, connected to an outlet with ground-fault-circuit-interrupting (GFCI) protection. Be sure to keep the cord safely away from the spinning auger while working.



Discussion Date:

Supervisor:

Participants:

Snow Blowing Safety Tips

- Avoid distractions. Do not talk on your cell phone or text while snow blowing.
- Set a steady pace, walking slowly while maintaining good footing during operation.
- Take frequent breaks and drink plenty of water to avoid overexertion.
- Regularly inspect the snow blower for damage and replace worn and broken parts.
- Stop the motor immediately after striking an object or feeling abnormal vibrations.
- Never direct the discharge chute towards people, buildings, or vehicles.
- Do not place your hand in the impeller housing or the chute to clear a clog. Turn the motor off, then use a clearing tool or stick to clear the clog.
- Do not leave a running snow blower unattended.
- Allow the engine to cool for a few minutes before refueling.