

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

General Information

A string trimmer, weed eater or weed whacker is used to maintain property aesthetics by cutting grass. However, flying dirt and debris that a string trimmer may produce can turn a simple job into a dangerous one. By following trimmer safety tips, you and the property can look great!



Before operating

- Read the operator's manual, know how to use the trimmer and use the recommended line or attachment.
- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (<http://www.ehs.iastate.edu/occupational/ppe>)
 - Closed toe and heel shoes with good traction, preferably boots.
 - Long sleeve shirt and long pants.
 - Safety glasses or goggles, and a face shield to protect your face from projectiles.
 - Hearing protection
 - Gloves
- Clear the work area of anything that could be thrown by the trimmer.
- Ensure others are not within 50 feet while trimming and stop if you are approached.
- Make slow, deliberate passes for greater control and cutting efficiency.
- Keep the cutting portion below knee height.
- Check the oil level before use.
- Turn off to perform maintenance.
- Allow the engine to cool before refueling.

Gas Powered Trimmer Safety Tips

- Do not operate without proper personal protective equipment.
- Do not operate in the rain. Wet trimmed grass can create a slip, slide, and fall hazard.
- Do not operate with shields or protective guards removed.
- Do not operate with incompatible attachments.
- Do not operate the trimmer after dark.
- Do not use the trimmer to cut thick stalks, twigs, or vines.

Discussion Date:

Supervisor:

Participants: