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](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.
- Always cut away from yourself.
- Keep the cutting portion below knee height.
- Allow the engine to cool before refueling.
- Turn off to perform maintenance.

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.

Discussion Date: ____________________________

Supervisor: ________________________________

Participants: _______________________________