



PACIF has developed Safety Briefs to help municipal highway supervisors maintain a high level of safety and hazard awareness among employees. We recommend using these short “tailgate trainings” on a regular basis – but no less once a month.

If you need a particular safety topic, please contact us at losscontrol@vlct.org.

CHIPPER SAFETY REMINDERS

Information for Supervisors

Wood chippers are commonly used in highway departments for ongoing maintenance of right of ways, as well as for storm related clean-up operations. Variable footing conditions, weather, clothing, proximity to roadways and other factors heighten the risk of injury when using this piece of equipment. Chipper-related injuries can range from minor scrapes to eye injuries, to amputations and even death. These are powerful pieces of equipment that demand your respect!

To reduce the potential for employee injury, it is important that employers establish a simple departmental policy requiring training and familiarization before use, and be clear about operational requirements, work practices and personal protective equipment requirements. Always refer to the manufacturer’s guidance for safe operation.

Talking Points for Training

Some key elements for discussion and review of safe use of chippers are as follows:

- Review and understand all safety guidance as outlined in the manufacturer’s safety manual. If you do not have a manual, these are often available online – as are free training videos or CDs.
- Do not wear ANY loose fitting clothing (including loose safety vests or chaps) when feeding the chipper.
- If possible have one designated employee feed the chipper.
- Test the emergency shutoff and direction reverse prior to use to ensure proper function.
- Wear personal protective clothing, including hearing, eye, head and hand protection.
- Do not reach or kick inside the in feed chute area for any reason and ALWAYS stand off to the side when feeding.
- Do not overload the chipper, or rush the feed process, and make sure the cut ends of limbs are fed inward.
- Remain aware of your position relative to the safety control bar.
- If chipper becomes plugged, shut down and apply lock out /tag out procedures before working on the jam. It may take a few minutes for the knives to stop moving!
- Even when de-energized, the cutting knives are extremely sharp and must be handled with care.
- Material fed into the machine should be long enough to eliminate the need for reaching or kicking in the in feed.
- Only use a wooden type push paddle to push small material into the feed wheels.
- Never bypass or disable any of the built in safety guards or switches.
- Position the discharge chute to avoid persons, vehicles, or equipment. Be cautious near roadways!
- Chock the wheels!

Trainer: _____

Training Date: _____

Attendee Roster:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

If you have questions on this, or other safety topics, please contact PACIF Loss Control at 800-649-7915 or losscontrol@vlct.org.

Also visit us on the web at: www.vlct.org