

**CARETAKER/EQUIPMENT OPERATOR**

Ref. Code: G-C-13

PLANTING TREES AND SHRUBS		
Activity	Hazard Identification	Required Precautions
1. Driving to and from work site.	1. Motor vehicle accident; striking pedestrians, bicyclists, and persons using rollerblades.	1. Wear prescription lenses, if required, and seatbelt. Verify that all equipment on vehicle is secured properly. Stay alert for pedestrians, bicyclists, and persons using rollerblades.
2. Digging.	2. Hitting electric lines, water lines, computer lines, etc.	2. Have electric shop or Miss Utility stake out area before beginning digging.
3. Digging holes using digging bar, pick, and shovel.	3a. Hitting foot.	3a. Be aware of where you are hitting. Keep your legs spread. Wear steel-toed safety boots.
	3b. Back strain; shoulder ache.	3b. Do not overexert yourself.
	3c. Blisters; cut by debris in soil.	3c. Wear gloves.
	3d. Heat exhaustion in extremely hot weather.	3d. Take breaks as needed. Drink plenty of fluids.
	3e. Striking coworkers with tools.	3e. Be aware of where your fellow workers are. Always maintain a safe distance.
4. Using backhoe.	4a. Striking electric, telephone, or computer lines.	4a. If electric shop or Miss Utility is unsure where lines are, backhoe should not be used.
	4b. Striking pedestrians, coworkers, or vehicles.	4b. Barricade work area with cones and tape. Stay alert for pedestrians, coworkers, and vehicles. Workers should maintain a safe distance from backhoe.
	4c. Person falling in large holes.	4c. Fence off holes if you must leave work area.
5. Adding gasoline to small gas-powered rototiller.	5. Splashed with gasoline; gasoline in eyes.	5. Wear safety glasses. Pour slowly to avoid splashing.
6. Loading small gas-powered rototiller onto pickup truck	6a. Rototiller falling off ramps.	6a. Verify that ramps are set at right width for rototiller.

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using aluminum ramps.		
	6b. Splinters.	6b. Wear gloves.
	6c. Rototiller falling over and spilling gasoline; rototiller hitting rear window of truck cab.	6c. Tie rototiller securely in the back of the truck.
7. Unloading rototiller from truck.	7a. Rototiller falling off ramps.	7a. Verify that ramps are set at right width for rototiller.
	7b. Rototiller going down ramps too fast, striking worker or causing worker to lose control.	7b. Two people are required to remove rototiller from the truck, one to stand on the side to keep ramps straight and one to slowly push rototiller down the ramps.
	7c. Worker or pedestrian falling from ramps.	7c. Remove ramps from truck once rototiller is removed.
	7d. Splinters.	7d. Wear gloves.
8. Preparing work area using small gas-powered rototiller.	8a. Severe injuries to feet; dismemberment.	8a. Always make sure rototiller is disengaged before starting it. Wear safety shoes. Keep feet clear of blades.
	8b. Struck by rocks or other debris.	8b. Wear eye protection. Verify that shield on rototiller is in place. Survey area for hazards before beginning work.
	8c. Struck by handles of rototiller.	8c. Rototiller will jerk up if it hits a tree root or large rock. Stay alert and work carefully. If you hit an obstacle, let go of the rototiller handles. Take rototiller out of gear to turn it off.
	8d. Loss of fingers or hands.	8d. Disengage rototiller and completely shut it off before trying to clean rototiller teeth. Wear gloves and safety glasses.
9. Hooking pull-behind rototiller to tractor.	9a. Fingers pinched when hooking up cotter pins and gear boxes.	9a. Wear gloves.
	9b. Worker struck by tractor.	9b. Back up tractor very slowly and know where coworkers are.

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	9c. Back strain and/or overexertion when hooking rototiller up to tractor.	9c. Two people are required to hook up the rototiller to the tractor.
10. Greasing fittings on pull-behind rototiller.	10. Grease on skin or in eyes.	10. Wear gloves and safety glasses.

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11. Preparing work area using pull-behind rototiller attached to tractor.	11a. Striking pipes or lines.	11a. Inspect area for obstructions before beginning work
	11b. Caretakers working on the ground being struck by rocks or other debris.	11b. Verify that rototiller shields are in place. Tractor driver must know where ground crew is at all times. Members of ground crew must wear safety glasses and keep a safe distance from tractor/rototiller.
	11c. Hit by low-hanging branches, limbs, or other obstacles.	11c. Stay alert for low-hanging branches, limbs, and other obstacles.
	11d. Loss of hearing.	11d. Wear ear protection.
	11e. Cuts; severe lacerations; dismemberment.	11e. Turn off rototiller, power takeoff (PTO), and tractor before cleaning debris from rototiller. Wear gloves and safety glasses.
12. Lifting heavy weight.	12. Back strain; overexertion.	12. Know your weight lifting capacity and get help if needed. Lift using leg muscles. Keep back straight. Use mechanical lifting devices. Use front-end loader to lift heavy trees.
13. Cutting strings from burlap on balls of trees and shrubs.	13. Severe cuts and lacerations.	13. Keep hands away from blade. Cut away from yourself. Wear gloves.
14. Cutting wire baskets from tree balls using wire cutters.	14. Cuts; pinches; struck in face, eyes, or hands by wire.	14. Keep hands away from sharp wires. Wear gloves and safety glasses.

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<p>15. Putting trees and shrubs in hole.</p>	<p>15a. Back strain; overexertion; getting knocked down by tree truck; dropping ball of tree or shrub on foot.</p>	<p>15a. Roll ball into the hole, letting the weight of the ball go into the hole. Know your weight lifting capacity and get help if needed. Lift using leg muscles. Keep back straight. Use the appropriate number or people to put shrubs and trees in holes. With large trees, three people are required—two to move the ball and one to guide the top of the tree. Work as a team to install trees and large shrubs. Make sure you work together when lowering tree or shrub to avoid dropping it on someone's foot. Keep feet out of the way when dropping tree or shrub into hole. Wear steel-toed safety shoes.</p>
	<p>15b. Poked in eyes or stuck with thorns, sharp leaves, or branches.</p>	<p>15b. Wear gloves and safety glasses.</p>
	<p>15c. Tripping.</p>	<p>15c. Keep tools out of work area to avoid tripping hazard.</p>