

CARETAKER/EQUIPMENT OPERATOR

Ref. Code: G-C-16

MULCHING		
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. Using pitch fork, grading rake, broom, wheelbarrow.	2a. Back/shoulder strain.	2a. Verify that wheelbarrow wheels are properly inflated and that wheelbarrow is properly assembled. Do not try to spread too much mulch at one time. Do not overexert yourself.
	2b. Blisters on hands.	2b. Wear gloves.
	2c. Getting hit in face or head with rake.	2c. Always know where your rake is to avoid stepping on it. Keep rake prongs facing down.
	2d. Wheelbarrow tipping over; worker getting struck and/or knocked over by wheelbarrow.	2d. Push wheelbarrow straight up and down hills. Maintain control of wheelbarrow and watch for obstacles in path.
3. Using blower to clean mulch off sidewalks.	3a. Inhalation of debris; debris in eyes.	3a. Wear safety glasses and dust mask or face shield. Do not blow into corners as this will cause debris to blow back into your face.
	3b. Loss of hearing.	3b. Wear ear protection.
	3c. Tripping; falling.	3c. Stay alert and walk carefully. Watch for hazards in the walkway.
	3d. Hair or clothing getting caught in backpack.	3d. Keep long hair tied up and wear a hat. Do not wear loose clothing.
	3e. Clothing catching on fire.	3e. Keep clothing away from exhaust. Tuck in shirttails.
4. Spreading mulch.	4a. Mulch in eyes and on skin.	4a. Wear gloves and safety glasses. Work with wind at

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		your back avoid mulching on very windy days.
	4b. Cuts from debris in mulch.	4b. Wear gloves.
5. Climbing in and out of truck.	5. Slipping; falling.	5. Verify that truck is equipped with safety/sandpaper. Use caution when climbing into and out of truck.
6. Working near shrubs and trees.	6a. Cuts/scratches to skin and eyes; pricked by thorns.	6a. Wear gloves and safety glasses.
	6b. Hitting head on low-hanging tree limbs and branches.	6b. Watch for low-hanging limbs and branches.