

MAFES Dawg Tracks



August 3, 2009 Safety Tips: Operating a Blower



Aren't blowers a great invention? They sure beat brooms and rakes. Not too many years ago, the blower was a luxury item; but now it is a basic work tool that we don't want to do without. The blower is a time and back saver. However, there are rules and guidelines that we should practice which will greatly reduce our opportunity for endangerment.

Before Operating the Blower -

- Read the owner's manual to get yourself familiar with the machine.
- Before each blowing project, check the machine for loose, broken or missing parts. Repair or replace them as needed.
- Wear tight-fitting, sturdy clothing to avoid having it sucked into the machine. Avoid clothing with ties, straps or chains.
- Always wear personal protective equipment. Protect your eyes from dust and flying objects with a face mask, face screen or safety goggles. If you are working in extremely dusty conditions, you should wear a respirator. If there are employees working near you or with you, they too should wear the same PPE.
- Do not operate the blower when you are tired, ill or emotionally upset. Also, do not operate the blower under the influence of alcohol, drugs or medications.
- When fueling the engine, always move to the outside of the building on bare ground with the engine cool.

- After fueling or gassing the machine, move it to another location about 10 feet away to start it. When refueling, give the engine time to cool down. Please don't smoke while fueling the engine.
- Keep pets and children out of the working area. (A recommendation has been used that says to keep them at a distance of at least 30 feet).

Precautions While Operating the Blower -

- Start, run and use the blower only when standing upright and outdoors.
- Do not operate the blower on a roof or a ladder without the proper tubing (extender).
- Do not use the blower to spread chemicals, fertilizers or other toxic substances.
- Do not alter the blower's safety features such as removing blade guards or other items.
- If you are using an electric blower, do not use it while standing on wet surfaces.
- Always direct the discharge of debris away from animals, people, glass or solid objects that could result in materials ricocheting.

Maintenance, Repair & Storage -

- As we mentioned above, always allow the engine to cool down before refueling.
- When doing a repair or maintenance, stop the engine completely and disconnect the spark plug.
- Before storing the blower, allow the engine to completely cool down.
- Store gasoline only in approved containers.

***SAFETY IS OUR GOAL!
WHAT'S YOURS?***