

Canadian Birkebeiner Society

Safe Practice Implementation Protocol #003 Bushing/Pruning with Hand Pruners and Bush Saws

Note: Overall guidelines for supervisor and workers responsibilities for SPIP development and implementation are presented in the introduction to Appendix II of the CBS HEM Manual.

Scope:

This SPIP ensures that all CBS workers using hand pruners and bush saws are aware of the hazards and the potential cause for an incident/accident. All workers shall ensure that they use proper techniques and appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) when bushing/pruning. Employees shall assure they are using pruners in a safe and efficient manner, regardless of the complexity of the job or time constraints. When using hand tools it is important to practice task rotation and to use the tool only as they are intended.

Required PPE: Cut resistant gloves.

Recommended PPE: Steel toed safety boots: safety glasses

Equipment required: Hand pruners and bush saws.

General Procedures: Refer to manufacturer's specifications for the intended use for the pruners and saws (type of cut – straight, curve, right or left, the maximum thickness and type of material that can be cut) and select the right size and type of hand pruner/saw for the job.

Dispose of cut brush in a safe and effective way. The preference is to leave brush on the trail for later removal or chipping, as disposal of cut materials into the surrounding bush frequently leads to brush being blown back onto the trail during stormy weather. Also, when lifted above head height, brush disposal represents a safety hazard to the volunteers involved.

Key Do's and Don'ts

Do

- Inspect hand tools for defects and wear and tear
- Keep tools sharp and well adjusted
- Create space to allow clear access to brush to be cut
- Have feet well placed and work in a balanced position
- Ensure that cut material falls away from your face
- Keep your hands away from the cut site
- Clear brush as you work to avoid tripping risks
- Carry pruners and saws in a safe manner

Don't

- Use blunt or defective pruners or saws
- Leave cutting tools where others may accidentally trip or cut themselves
- Continue working when tired or cold