

Canadian Birkebeiner Society

Safe Practice Implementation Protocol #007 *Using gas-powered brush cutters on CLBPRAs trails*

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 gas-powered brush cutters are registered users who: 1) Are familiar with the information in the Operators' Manual; and 2) Have received some training from, and gained experience whilst working under the supervision of, more experienced and registered operators. All workers will use safe techniques and the required personal protective equipment (PPE) when operating brush cutters.

Required PPE: Steel toed boots, long sleeved shirt, safety glasses, gloves, hard hat with face shield and ear muffs, ear plugs, sturdy trousers and reflective vest. A first aid kit should be available at the work site. Whistles for use by co-workers for alerting power tool operators of hazards

Recommended PPE:

Equipment required: A fully operational and well -maintained brush cutter with a sharp blade.

General Procedures: Refer to manufacturer's Operators' Manual for comprehensive information on the safe use of the Husqvarna Brush Cutter owned by the CBS. Manual is posted on-line at CBS HEM website

Specific restrictions: *CBS volunteers must be both experienced and formally registered by the CBS HEM program for brush cutter use in CLBPRAs.*

Key Do's and Don'ts

Do

- *Clear the area of any obstructions that could lead to tripping or lack of balance*
- *Look for rocks and other large objects that could result in blade thrust and equipment damage*
- *Maintain 15 M of safe distance from other volunteers when operating the cutter*
- *Add fuel before starting at some distance from the work site*
- *Work within your physical limits and with a properly adjusted balance harness*
- *Study Operator Manual for correct cutting techniques to avoid "blade thrust" incidents*
- *Stop the motor before removing blade jams or moving away from the cutting area*

Don't

- *Start gas powered cutters close to point of refuelling*
- *Run cutter when away from the work site*
- *Use cutters with blunt blades*
- *Attempt to remove cut brush with the motor on and blade still operating*