

**MODULE 3-07**

**POWER WASHERS**

ALL EMPLOYEES ARE TO BE TRAINED PRIOR TO USING EQUIPMENT

**I. Pre Operation** (Read Operators Manual Prior to Use.)

**1. Inspection/Service -**

- **Check** gas, oil and tire pressure.
- **Inspect** - Visually inspect all hoses for holes or cracks.
- **Water Supply** - Connect to water supply and **TURN** on water! Run water through machine until air bubbles are out.
- **Electric** – If electric, plug into GFIC (pigtail.)
- **Chemicals** - Read and follow MSDS when using chemicals approved for pressure washers.  
**(Lockout/Tagout if repairs are needed.)**



**II. Operation**

**1. Starting - Gas Power Washers**

- **Switch** - Turn on/off switch to "on" position.
- **Choke** - Engage choke, set throttle at half way point.
- **Pull Start** - cord, after three pulls, disengage choke and try again, no more than 10 pulls, then lockout/tagout.
- **Hold trigger down** - Test water pressure and adjust spray.
- **Be Alert** to exhaust gases and extreme temperatures.  
Wearing water proof gear, rubber boots and gloves in hot weather can result in heat exhaustion or worse.



**2. Personal Protective Equipment -**

- Protective eye wear (face shield), rubber coated gloves, hearing protection if over 85dba, "rain gear" when necessary.



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*This deck can be cleaned with a power washer once the tree limb is removed. Note the build-up of tree sap and debris on a deck can make it slippery and unsafe for visitors, hosts and staff. Your site assessment should discuss how and when you will move the heavy picnic table and how you will close the area off from curious visitors while you are working.*

### 3. Site Assessment -

- **Inspect** area for evidence of chemical residue, loose debris, tree sap, etc.
- **Secure Area** - example - close restroom to public.
- **Remove** paper products, garbage cans or other items possibly damaged by water or high pressured water.
- **Protect** electrical fixtures from water.
- **Nozzles** - Determine the type of nozzle and/or spray needed for work. (wide or narrow.)

### 4. Operation - Includes:

- **Pressure** - Power washers put out 1,500 - 3,000 pounds of water pressure (PSI).
  - **Hold** wand with both hands when using it.
  - **Avoid** skin contact with high-pressure spray. **It can cause death!**
  - **Direct** pressure away from you and others, (avoid contact with splash back.)
  - **Nozzle** - Keep nozzle appropriate distance away from what is being cleaned.



### III. Post Operation

Clean and inspect for damage or additional maintenance prior to checking in. Refuel the washer after it has cooled, LO/TO if repairs are needed.

### IV. Demonstration and Proficiency

All persons trained on power washers are required to demonstrate their proficiency prior to signing the training ledger.

**MODULE 3-07      POWER WASHERS TEST**

**Multiple Choice**

1. As a part of the inspection/service, you need to:
  - a) Check gas and oil if applicable.
  - b) Inspect hoses for holes or cracks.
  - c) Make sure you have a plug with a GFI pigtail.
  - d) Read MSDS when using chemicals approved for washer.
  - e) All of the above.
  
2. When starting a gas powered washer you need to:
  - a) Lock and tag out if does not start after 3 pulls.
  - b) Engage the choke and set the throttle 1/4 way out.
  - c) Be alert to exhaust fumes and extreme temperature.
  - d) All of the above.
  
3. What personal protective **don't** you need when using the power washer?:
  - a) Protective eye wear and face shield.
  - b) Latex gloves from first aid kit.
  - c) Rubber boots or appropriate footwear.
  - d) Hearing protection if over 85 dba.
  
4. When using the wand, you need to:
  - a) Tell everyone in the area you are using the power washer.
  - b) Hold wand with both hands.
  - c) Put up a safety perimeter around the work area.
  - d) All of the above.

**II. True/False**

5. \_\_\_\_\_ It is not important to inspect hoses prior to using the power washer.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ You don't need to wear personal protective equipment when using the power washer because you are going to get all wet anyway.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Before washing an area down it is important to remove all debris, paper products and cover electrical outlets.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ You don't need to worry about coming into contact with the pressure spray end of the power washer because there is no danger of injury.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ In some situations it is appropriate to wear rain gear as a part of your personal protective equipment.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ If the power washer will not start you need to take it back to the shop lock and tag out for repair.

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## III. Discussion Questions

1. What are the hazards of using a pressure washer?
2. What should you do to secure an area when pressure washing?

Employee Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Pass \_\_\_\_\_ No Pass \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_