

MODULE 3-08

POWER PRUNER

ALL EMPLOYEES ARE TO BE TRAINED PRIOR TO USING EQUIPMENT

Purpose

Providing clean, well-maintained facilities is an essential function of OPRD’s mission and part of the Centennial Horizon goals for world-class visitor experiences. The use of gas-powered equipment, such as a power pruner, helps keep landscapes, trails, and campsites clean, safe, and well maintained.

Using a gas-powered pruner requires an ability to walk over uneven surfaces, use job hazard analysis to identify worksite hazards, and use equipment and materials safely according to OPRD and manufacturer instructions. The purpose of operating any equipment in Oregon Parks is to accomplish the business of the State while protecting visitors, employees, and volunteers.



Significant Environmental Aspects

OPRD has developed an Environmental Management System (EMS). Information about the EMS and other completed training modules included in the EMS can be located on the “R” Drive at: R:\Environmental Management System. Those activities and operations that may have significant environmental impact have been identified and included in the EMS. Operation of gas-powered equipment, such as a power pruner, has the potential for significant environmental impact involving: vehicle and engine use, non-hazardous waste, potentially hazardous waste, and air quality. Operators of gas-powered equipment should choose the most efficient equipment to perform assigned tasks.

I. Pre-Operation

A. Operator’s Manual – Read prior to using equipment.

B. Inspection/Service



- **Tool pack** - Chain, wrench, tools, oil, fuel.
- **Inspect** – Chain – adjust for tightness, sharpening needed; pole-telescoping knob to insure tightness.



- **Bar Inspection** - Check fluid levels, bar warp-age, nuts and bolts tight, bar guard attached while transporting.
- **Pre-start** before leaving shop and check for proper operation.

- **Red tag** any tools or non-energized equipment requiring replacement or repair and remove from service.
 - **Lockout/Tag-out (LO/TO)** any energized tools or equipment if repairs are needed, in accordance with Procedure Module 09-04, Lockout/Tag-out.

II. Sustainable Operation

- A. Equipment Choice** – Look for alternatives to two-cycle engines; if a gas-powered engine is required use the most efficient equipment.
- B. Maintenance** – Proper maintenance of gas-powered equipment helps increase fuel

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efficiency and reduce air pollution.

- C. **Chemical Use** – Where possible use low-smoke oil and bio-based lubricants.
- D. **Waste Disposal** – Properly dispose of all petroleum-based waste according to park procedures or waste management plan.

III. Operation



A. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- **Head Protection** – Hardhat must be worn
- **Ear Protection** – Use ear plugs/muffs
- **Hand Protection** – Use leather gloves
- **Eye Protection** – Face shield or safety goggles/glasses

B. Site Assessment

- **Secure Area** - Identify secure work area. Protect people and property.
- **Footing** - Assure stable footing.
- **Escape Route** - Identify escape route.
- **Overhead Obstructions** - Check for overhead obstruction, e.g. power lines.
- **Cutting Platform** – Insure your work platform is stable and you don't overreach.

C. Starting

- **Mix fuel** - Mix according to Operators Manual. Check bar oil.
- **Adjustment** - Set pole length prior to starting.
- **Before** starting pruner, put PPE on.
 - **Stabilize** the pruner and safely position the blade before starting.
 - **Engage** run and choke levers/buttons. Place hand or foot on pole section to secure.
 - **Pull Start Cord**. After three pulls, if it doesn't start, move choke to off position. If the pruner does not start within 10 pulls – lock out/tag out.
 - **Depress Throttle** a few times to burn excess fuel.
 - **Ensure Chain** does not run while saw is idling.

D. **Operation.** The power saw can cause body stress and strain. Proper use, breaks, stretching and protective gear are essential.

- **Back Protection** - Use of a shoulder harness is recommended.
- **Footwear** – Should be appropriate for the task, no sandals, thongs, tennis shoes.
- **Undercut** - Make slight under cut before cutting limb to avoid pinching and tearing of tree bark.
- **Avoid fatigue** - Stretch out body parts during gas/oil changes. Take micro breaks.
- **Overhead** - Do not cut directly over-head. Cut lower limbs first and work your way up.
- **Place clutch** cover against limb when cutting. Do not cut with tip of saw.
- **Extending Arms** - Do not over extend arms, keep elbow fulcrum close to body.
- **Let the saw do the work.** Use sharp chain. Cut long limbs into shorter lengths.
- **Cooling** - Allow pruner to cool before refueling and moving to new site area.



IV. Post-Operation

A. Transport with bar guard attached; check chain for sharpness and tightness.

B. Clean Up, Hazard Warnings, Storage

- Use compressed air to clean out clutch compartments and air filter.
- Clean and inspect tools and equipment for damage or needed maintenance.
- Place hazard signs/tape to identify any park hazard for the safety of staff and visitors.
- Red Tag any non-energized tools or equipment damaged during work project.
- Complete Lockout/Tag-out process for any energized tools or equipment damaged during work.
- Schedule repairs or replacement on damaged tools or equipment.

V. Demonstration of Proficiency

Anyone expected to use a power pruner must be trained in that process and is required to demonstrate proficiency prior to signing training ledger.

MODULE 3-08

POWER PRUNER TEST

I. Multiple Choice

1. You need to check the pole-telescoping knob to make sure it is:
 - a) Adjusted right.
 - b) Loose enough.
 - c) Tight enough.
 - d) See through.

2. Ensure chain is not running when:
 - a) When you are reaching for high limbs.
 - b) When the chainsaw motor is idling.
 - c) Place hand or foot on pole section.
 - d) Have someone else hold the pole.

3. What Personal Protective Equipment do you need when using the power pruner?
 - a) Hard hat.
 - c) Face shield.
 - d) Leather gloves.
 - e) Hearing protection.
 - e) All of the above.

4. When performing a site assessment, you need to:
 - a) Make sure you protect people and property.
 - b) Identify overhead obstructions.
 - c) Identify escape route.
 - d) All of the above.

II. True/False

5. _____ Because of its ergonomic design, body strain is minimal while using a power pruner, therefore a shoulder harness just gets in the way and is not recommended.
6. _____ Tool Pack should contain wedges.
7. _____ Insure that the pole-telescoping knob is tight before cutting.
8. _____ Start to limb from the top of the tree, moving downwards to the lower limbs.
9. _____ Determining an escape route is an important aspect of site assessment.
10. _____ One benefit to using a power pruner is that because the saw is at the end of a long stick you don't need to worry about eye protection.
11. _____ Always check for power lines before cutting any limbs.
12. _____ When cutting large limbs, try to get them down with just one cut to avoid unnecessary fatigue.
13. _____ Start saw, adjust pole length, cut limbs.

III. Discussion Questions

1. What process should you take to cut large limbs?

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2. What ergonomic hazards are of concern when using a power pruner? What can you do to reduce ergonomic strain?

Employee Name: _____ Pass _____ No Pass _____ Date: _____

Take this test to your supervisor or trainer for sign off.