



Brush Chipper Safety

West Virginia University
Environmental Health and Safety



Pre-Use Activities:

- Brush chipper operators shall review the manufacturer's operating instructions and receive training in the proper operation, feeding, starting, shutdown, and emergency procedures for the brush chipper being used.
- Brush chipper operators and other employees assisting with brush chipper tasks shall be instructed about safe work practices and potential or existing hazards unique to the job assignment.
- Brush chipper maintenance shall only be performed by employees that are authorized and trained to perform such operations.
- Access panels for maintenance and adjustment must be closed and secured prior to operation of brush chippers.
- Brush chippers detached from trucks shall be chocked or otherwise secured to prevent movement. When in tow position, the brush chipper safety chains shall be crossed under the tongue of the chipper and affixed securely to the towing vehicle.



Operating Precautions:

- When the brush chipper is in operation, at least one worker in addition to the operator shall be in the immediate vicinity of the work area.
- Eye and hearing protection are to be worn by the chipper operator and other employees assisting with brush chipper tasks at all times.
- Care shall be taken so that no foreign objects (non-wood) are fed into the chipper blades.
- The brush chipper shall be fed from the side of the centerline.
- The chipper operator shall immediately turn away from the feed chute when the brush is taken into the rotor.
- The chipper chute shall never be raised or removed while the rotor is turning.
- Loose clothing, gauntlet-type gloves, rings, and watches are not to be worn by workers feeding the chipper.
- Small branches shall be fed into the brush chipper with longer branches or by utilizing a long stick for pushing.
- Hands or other parts of the body shall not be placed into the infeed hopper.
- Leaning into or pushing material into the infeed hoppers with your feet is prohibited.
- Stop the brush chipper before clearing any obstructions from the infeed hopper.
- Use Lockout/Tagout procedures when performing any maintenance on brush chippers.