



Flail Mower/Shredder Safety



West Virginia University
Environmental Health and Safety

Pre-Use Activities

- Review and understand information provided in the flail mower/shredder operator's manual with particular attention given to descriptions of safety procedures.
- Inspect the flail mower/shredder for damage or disrepair and make sure all shields and guards are securely in place, including the power take-off shaft guard.
- If a flail mower/shredder fails the pre-use inspection, notify your supervisor and remove the mower/shredder from service by attaching a red tag that states "DO NOT USE." Complete red tag with appropriate information.
- Employees that use a flail mower/shredder shall be instructed annually on safe work practices and operational procedures for mower/shredder equipment.



Operating Precautions

- Passengers shall not be allowed on operating flail mower/shredder or tractor equipment.
- Prior to beginning a flail mower/shredder task, inspect the work area for hazards and obstructions.
- Before starting the tractor and engaging the flail mower/shredder, look for people or obstructions behind or ahead of the tractor and flail mower/shredder.
- Keep hands and feet away from moving flail mower/shredder parts.
- Do not walk or stand behind an operating flail mower/shredder.
- When operating in undulating terrain, pull the flail mower/shredder up and down slopes.
- Disengage the power take-off, set the parking brake, stop the tractor engine, and assure the flail mower/shredder is de-energized before servicing, adjusting, cleaning, or unclogging flail mower/shredder equipment.
- Only dismount (or mount) a tractor when the engine is shut off.