

GAS-POWERED EDGERS**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 Target 2014 goals of world-class visitor experiences. The use of gas-powered equipment, such as an edger, helps keep landscapes, trails, and campsites clean, safe, and well maintained. Using a gas-powered edger requires an ability to walk over uneven surfaces, use job hazard analysis to identify worksite dangers, 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. Park activities and operations that may have significant environmental impact have been identified and included in the EMS. Operation of gas-powered equipment, such as an edger, 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

- **Check** guards, fuel, oil, blade length, spark plugs, tighten nuts and bolts.
- **Clean up** any fuel or oil spills according to park procedures
- **Tool Bag** - Check tool bag for extra blades, wrench, spark plugs, trimmer line
- **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 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)

- **Hand Protection** – Wear gloves - Leather or vibration dampening gloves.
- **Face/Eye Protection** – Wear face shield and safety glasses/goggles.
- **Hearing Protection** – Use ear plugs or muffs.

B. Starting

- **Starting Switch** - Move to “On” position. (Your park procedures here.)
- **Choke** - Move carburetor choke to “On” position.
- **Pre-Prime** - Prime carburetor if edger has a priming bulb.
- **Starting Position** - Place cutting blade in raised position.
- **Pre-start** - Pull rope starter. If motor does not start by 10th pull, do not use. Tag it out for repairs. Once started, **turn the choke off.**



C. Site Assessment

- **People/Property** – Be aware of proximate distance to people, property, and vehicles. Do not use edgers where vehicles or people are present.
- **Throw Zone** - Rocks/Debris can be thrown up to 100 feet.
- **Rare/Native Vegetation** – Be aware of rare or native vegetation that should not be harmed or cut.

D. Operation Includes

- **Clothing** – Clothing worn should be appropriate for the work to be done, providing adequate coverage of arms, legs, hands, feet.
- **Blade Depth** - Control depth of blade based on desired edging. Do not set blade too deep. This will avoid throwing excessive debris.
- **Visual Attention** - Maintain constant visual attention to the blade and area you are cutting.
- **Curb Wheel** - Use curb wheel when appropriate.

IV. Post-Operation - Clean Up, Hazard Warnings, Storage



- Clean up area where edging was done.
- Remove any debris from trail or walk way surface; dispose of any non-hazardous waste according to park procedures (insert park procedures)
- Refuel, change or sharpen blades and trimmer line as needed.
- Place hazard signs/tape to identify any park hazard for the safety of staff and visitors.
- Clean and inspect tools and equipment for damage or needed maintenance.
- 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 trained to use an edger is required to demonstrate proficiency prior to signing training ledger.

PROFICIENCY TEST EDGER

03-16

I. Multiple Choice

1. The personal protective equipment you should wear when edging is:
 - a) Ear muffs or plugs.
 - b) Safety goggles or glasses.
 - c) Gloves
 - d) All of the above.

2. When performing pre-operations, one of the things you should do is?
 - a) Talk to someone about how the edger was running the last time it was used.
 - b) Find out when the edger was used last.
 - c) If the edger is dirty, find the person who used it last and make them clean it.
 - d) Check tool kit to make sure you have extra blades, wrench and spark plug.

3. The edger can throw a rock:
 - a) 25 feet.
 - b) 50 feet.
 - c) 75 feet.
 - d) 100 feet.
 - e) 150 feet.

4. It is important to control the depth of the blade so you won't:
 - a) Hit the ground.
 - b) Throw excess debris around.
 - c) Lose control of the edger.
 - d) Wear the blade down.

II. True/False

5. _____ Support bag should include spark plugs, fresh water for the radiator, extra blades and a wrench.
6. _____ When operating the edger, due to flying debris, eye protection is required.
7. _____ It is important to check blade length.
8. _____ Edger can throw debris a distance up to 900 feet.
9. _____ Check and tighten nuts bolts and screws before leaving the shop.
10. _____ Be sure to preheat the engine before starting.

III. Discussion Questions

1. What type of hazards do edger's have when operating them in a park?
2. How do you edge an area with vehicles and people around?

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