**Proper instruction & information is critical:**

Do not use any gasoline-powered blower without proper instruction. Employees must be properly trained to operate this equipment safely. Proper training must include a review of the operator’s manual as well as a skills evaluation to assure that you understand the features of this piece of equipment and can use it safely.

**Hazards:**

Many hazards are involved when using a gasoline-powered blower including the following:

* Exposing the public to noise and flying debris.
* Property damage caused by flying debris.
* Foreign objects in the eyes (dirt, debris, or other particles).
* Slopes, uneven, or unstable ground that could potentially result in slips, trips, or falls.
* Diverted attention—watching what you are blowing, not where you are walking.
* Exposure to outdoor environments including insects, sun, and allergens.
* Noise and vibration exposure.
* Exposure to exhaust gases such as carbon monoxide in poorly ventilated areas.
* Exposure to gas, oil, and other fluids.
* Burns from the exhaust system.

**Before use:**

* Inspect and test the equipment to manufacturer requirements before each use to assure that the safety devices are working.
  + All guards must be in place and the equipment in good, ready-to-use condition.
* Follow the manufacturer’s recommendations for proper scheduled maintenance.
  + Complete a written field inspection form to document that the equipment is working properly and suitable for use.
* Do not use the equipment if unsafe conditions exist.

**Required personal protective equipment (PPE):**

* **Body:** coveralls or long-sleeve shirt and long-legged pants
* **Feet:** anti-slip, ankle-height leather boots
* **Hands:** heavy work gloves such as leather or similar anti-vibration
* **Eyes:** goggles or safety glasses with side shields or wrap around lenses; may be shaded impact-rated sunglasses
* **Ears:** ear plugs or muffs when operating or around noisy equipment

**Optional PPE** **(based on the hazard assessment):**

* **Head:** Hard hats must be worn when working below overhead hazards such as low branches. A sunhat for protection is also advised.
* **Body:** Rain gear is recommended during wet weather. High visibility clothing is required when working around traffic.
* **Feet:** Wear rubber boots in wet conditions. Assure anti-slip soles are used.
* **Face:** Goggles recommended when conditions are dry. Face shield required when flying particles are likely. Goggles or safety glasses must be worn underneath a face shield.
* **Hands:** Nitrile gloves may be worn for potential chemical exposures.
* **Lungs:** Respirator such as a disposable dust mask (N95) can be used on a voluntary basis.

**Maintenance and repairs:**

* Do not work on running or hot equipment. Shut it off and let it cool.
* Disconnect the spark plug wire before performing mechanical adjustments, maintenance, or repairs.
* Check over the machine carefully for loose, broken, or damaged parts. Repair or replace before using.
* Only an authorized and qualified equipment mechanic may make appropriate repairs using safe work practices.

This form documents that the training specified above was presented to the listed participants. By signing below, each participant acknowledges receiving this training.

Organization: Date:

Trainer: Trainer’s Signature:

**Class Participants:**

Name: Signature:

Name: Signature:

Name: Signature:

Name: Signature:

Name: Signature:

Name: Signature:

Name: Signature:

Name: Signature:

Name: Signature:

Name: Signature:

Name: Signature:

Name: Signature:

Name: Signature:

Name: Signature:

Name: Signature:

Name: Signature: