



WISCONSIN SCHOOL SAFETY COORDINATORS ASSOCIATION WSSCA

MARCH 2011 NEWSLETTER

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SNOW THROWERS

With the winter season in the full swing, snow throwers are one of the main tools in the arsenal of snow removal. As a result, it is also a main area where accidents can occur to individuals. Below are some quick and easy do's and don'ts to snow thrower safety.

What should I Do when Using a snow thrower?

DO:

1. Read and follow the manufacturer's operating manual
2. Use only the attachments and accessories approved by the manufacturer
3. Keep people away from starting and operating areas
4. Wear clothing appropriate for cold weather exposure
5. Disengage all clutches and shift into neutral before starting the motor
6. Check shear bolts frequently for proper tightness
7. Adjust the collector housing to clear gravel or crushed rock surfaces
8. Walk slowly, maintain good footing, and keep a firm hold on the handles
9. Change direction slowly on slopes
10. Keep clear of the discharge opening at all times
11. Stop the motor, remove the wire from the spark plug, and make sure that the collector and all moving parts have stopped before cleaning, repairing or inspecting
12. Stop the motor after striking an object, before thoroughly inspecting the snow thrower for any damage. Repair if necessary.
13. Stop the motor if the unit begins to vibrate abnormally. Check for cause of vibration.
14. Try to clear snow early and often. Begin shoveling/blowing when a light covering of snow is on the ground to avoid dealing with packed, heavy snow

What should I NOT do when using a snow thrower?

DO NOT:

1. Do not make adjustments with the motor running
2. Do not run the motor indoors except when starting the motor for transporting the snow thrower in or out of the building
3. Do not attempt to clear steep slopes
4. Do not operate the snow thrower unless proper guards, plates or other safety protective devices are in place and working properly

5. Do not overload the machine by trying to clear the snow too quickly
 6. Do not operate the machine at high speeds on slippery surfaces
 7. Do not direct snow at people
 8. Do not operate the snow thrower without good visibility or light
 9. Do not put your hand into the auger housing or discharge chute while the engine is running. Turn off the engine, disconnect the spark plug wire, and wait for all moving parts to stop. Use a tool to pry out any snow, ice, or other material that prevents the snow blower from expelling.
 10. Do not use your hands to remove the blockage - fingers have been amputated when the impeller blade has rotated while people were removing snow with their hands.
 11. Do not remove safety devices, shields or guards on switches.
 12. Never add fuel when the engine is running or hot.
- Please remember to be vigilant when using any powered tool. Complacency leads to accidents.

Kevin Christoun, Kenosha Unified School District

From the desk of the Executive Director:

WSSCA's 2011 School Safety and Security Conference will be held at the Kalahari Resort March 14 and 15. For agenda info see the website at: www.wssca.org or contact Pete Pochowski at wssca@wssca.org. School shootings will be emphasized this year. Tom Andres, who took over at Weston High School after the 2006 shooting shares his thoughts. Then hear the review of the Marinette shooting by the courageous school and police leaders who were there and in charge. Bring your questions for them to answer. With their insight and help, maybe we can prevent something like this from happening again in our state. Invite your local police. We need them there to hear how these officers handled this situation. It might come in handy some day.

Modules 3/4 of the WSSCA School Safety Certification Program will be held on April 13. For details check the website at: www.wssca.org or contact Pete Pochowski at wssca@wssca.org.

NATIONAL YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION WEEK IS MARCH 21 to 25, 2011. Violence is the second leading cause of death for young people between the ages of 10 and 24. For additional info see: www.ncjrs.gov/yviolence/. Wssca is proud to celebrate YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION WEEK all year round. And thanks for your part in keeping our schools safe.

Finally, this is a good time to remind students that the ice over lakes and rivers at this time of year is very dangerous. Thanks to Gary Aull for that note.

Thought for the day: "No man stands so tall as to when he bends to help a child." - Abe Lincoln

Education First - Safety Always