



Safe Mulching Practices

CAGC INFORMATION ALERT

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Information

Alert

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There are many safety practices that should be followed while visiting any field operation; however this Information Alert will specifically outline the practices to abide by while working around Mulchers. Specific guidelines designed to keep users and people in the general vicinity of Mulchers safe are outlined in the Mulching Best Practices located on the CAGC website; however it has become apparent that more emphasis is needed on how to safely act around an operating mulcher.

Regardless of your experience, background or company position, you should always be prepared for the jobsite you are visiting by reviewing and understanding the Best Practices. As well, being equipped with and wearing the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (CSA approved hard hat, protection for eyes, ears, face and body) is essential.

It is important to always be cognizant of your surroundings and follow company procedure; highlighted below is a list of procedures that – if followed- will keep you safe from injury:

- When a mulcher is cutting, no person should be allowed within 100 meters or 2 tree lengths, whichever is greater, in any direction of the machine;
- Mulchers must be equipped with a radio that contains a channel(s) on the same frequency as that of the crew;
- All persons keep away at least 100 meters away while the machine is at work;
- When you are approaching a mulcher from any direction, you must notify the operator by radio so the operator is aware your presence. Confirmation from the operator must be acknowledged and the machine put on standby mode (drum disengaged) before any close approach. **NO EXCEPTIONS!!;**
- Slashers/Fallers or anyone else on a site working in support of a Mulcher are responsible for maintaining the prescribed safe working distances for themselves and all other workers and equipment;
- Do not show up to site unseen or unprepared

By following these procedures you significantly reduce the risk of injury from falling or flying debris.