

SWMS Title:	Use of Backpack Blower	Description of Task / Activity:	Use of Backpack Blower
Partner Site:	All Partner Sites		
SWMS prepared by: George Covino	Position: Regional HSE Manager Vic/Tas	Date: 01/07/2021	SWMS reviewed by: Paul Nichols
Authorisation:			
Authorised by: Operational Business Unit Manager or Delegate		Date: 01/07/2021	

Hierarchy of Control	Risk Matrix																																																							
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Required PPE (Personal Protective Equipment)									
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1. Hazard / Hazardous Event	2. Current Controls
<p>Prestart Inspection/Preparation/Maintenance – Slips, Trips, manual handling, weather, collision with vehicles, other team members entering work area, electrocution.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure permission to work in the area is sought before you commence work. Close access to the area until the job is completed (if practicable) or do the work after hours. Review weather conditions prior to work commencing and determine if it is safe to proceed. Operator/s to inspect the work area prior to operating the blower for any potential loose or sharp or flying objects. Place safety sign/s in a position so that they can be easily seen to avoid any trip hazards, especially electrical leads. Place barriers around the work area to avoid collision with other vehicles and unauthorised entry of other personnel. Operator/s to familiarise themselves with safe operation and emergency shutdown procedures of the blower prior to use. Operator/s to ensure all necessary covers and guards are in place prior to use. Ensure correct manual handling techniques are used e.g. lift with back straight and knees bent. Operator/s to ensure the motor is switched off during cleaning, maintaining or inspecting the blower where contact with rotating engine parts is possible. Ensure batteries are fully charged prior to use of blower. Ensure battery charger leads have been test and tagged and in date.
<p>Put Backpack Blower on or off – Manual Handling, slips, trips,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure to check the shoulder straps and waist belt are in good working order and adjusted correctly. Ensure when placing the blower onto or removing from shoulders there is adequate clearance from traffic, embankments, retaining walls, 2m from unprotected edges or other if required to step backwards or forwards due to loosing balance.
<p>Use of Blower – slips, trips, manual handling, eye/ face injury due to object flying around, dust, explosion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use arm/s for moving the leaf blower nozzle in an arc motion. Wear safety glasses, safety footwear, hearing protection and Hi viz long sleeve shirt and pants. Inspect the work area for any potential loose or sharp or flying objects and remove where possible. Avoid pointing the blower nozzle towards others. Ensure there is a minimum of 15 metre clearance between the blower and all other personnel in the area.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure any loose or protruding fixtures, fittings, straps or blower pipes on the blower have been removed or adequately secured prior to climbing roof access stairs or ladders. • Wear a face mask in dusty conditions. • Avoid using the blower to shift volumes of water around electrical meter boards and or 240v electrical cords unless confirmed de-energised. • Operator/s to avoid leaving the blower unattended where there is the potential for a falling hazard. • Operator/s to avoid using the leaf blower around LPG gas cylinders. • Operator/s to avoid smoking around LPG gas cylinders. • Operator/s to observe and assess vehicular traffic, concrete, rubber wheel stops or wheel restraint devices prior to operating the blower.
<p>Completing the task – exiting the work area - Strains and sprains Slips, trips or falls, In the event of an emergency, Site awareness of who is on site</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove tools and equipment from the work area and use correct manual handling techniques. • Remove all waste materials and rubbish from the work area. • Identify recyclable materials and arrange drop off to appropriate recycling centre. • Waste materials to be disposed of in accordance with jurisdictional waste disposal requirements. • Ensure worksite is clean and tidy. • Remove barricades. • Ensure area is free from trip hazards.
<p>3. Additional Information</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For Additional Information contact the HSE Team. 	
<p>4. Activity Risk Rating:</p>	<p>Medium (C3)</p>