



## Landscape Services

# Safety Standard Operating Procedure

(Revised 3/2023)

### String Trimmer Operation

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This SSOP provides guidance on the practices established for **String Trimmer Operation**. As with any equipment or tools, the most basic premise for safe operation is reading and adhering to the manufacturer's instructions and warnings. This SSOP is not a substitute for the owner's manual produced by the manufacturer.

**Safety Requirements:** Be aware of your surroundings, check for debris, branches, rocks, and pedestrians. Cease operation when pedestrians are present.

**Safety Hazards:** Vehicle and pedestrian traffic, Underground and overhead Utilities, lifting, bending, overhead objects, dust, noise, sharp objects, blind spots, equipment malfunction, pinch points, hot or cold temperatures, and inclement weather.

**PPE Requirements:** Gloves, safety glasses, hearing protection, closed toe shoe, safety vest, long pants.

**Schedule:** Seasonal. Commences in the Spring within the month of March. Activity concludes into the fall and should cease in October. Some fescue areas will need occasional trimming in the Fall.

#### Inspection

- Check equipment for damage.
- Check fluids (mixed gas & oil) 1- 6.4 oz bottle Stihl 2-cycle oil per 2.5 gallons of gasoline.
- 2-cycle oil can be purchased at **FM Supply**.
- One 1145' spool of Oregon .095 Gatorline will be purchased for each individual zone in April. Any additional needed line for the string trimmer will need to be reported to your Supervisor.

#### Operation

- Turn choke to ON position.
- Pull start cord until you hear ignition.
- Turn choke to the OFF position once ignition is engaged.
- String Trimmer is to be held firmly with both hands when in operation.
- Operate string trimmer under good visibility and daylight conditions.
- When operation is completed, secure equipment for next use.
- Trimming height will be equal to mowing height and will occur after mowing has been completed within the area. DO NOT trim in front of mowing.
- DO NOT scalp around irrigation valve boxes or utility valves.

## **Trimmer Line Replacement**

1. Open the head by pressing the recesses and remove the cover.
2. Remove the spool.
3. Insert the end of the line into the eyelet and wind it firmly and evenly.
4. Hook the end of the line into the notch.
5. Wind the second line, then insert the spool.
6. Put the ends of the line through the eyelets and close the trimmer head
7. Pull hard on the line until the spool jumps up slightly.