



# West Bay Sanitary District Code of Safe Practice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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Questions or comments regarding this  
Code of Safe Practice should be directed  
to the Regulatory Compliance Coordinator.

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## Hedge Clipper (Gasoline Powered)

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These safety practices shall be followed where employees can be injured by fire, cuts, abrasion, etc.

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- Never leave the clippers running while unattended.
- Heavy-duty, non-slip gloves are recommended while using the clippers.
- Wear eye and hearing protection devices when operating clipper. Eye protection with side shields is mandatory. Face shields made of screen or plastic are recommended.
- Wear non-skid sole shoes. Do not wear opened toes, clothe or sports shoes or operate clipper while bare footed.
- Wear proper clothing to protect legs and other exposed body parts.
- When transporting the hedge trimmer:
  - Switch the engine off.
  - Attach blade guards or covers.
  - Carry only in the up-right position.
  - Keep the cutter blades behind you.
  - In a vehicle, prevent turnover which would cause fuel spillage.
- Your hedge trimmer uses a mixture of oil/gasoline as fuel. When refueling, be sure the fuel is made up of the correct ratio of gas to oil.
- When fueling or re-fueling:
  - NEVER with the motor running.
  - Allow the motor to cool.
  - Only outside, in well-ventilated areas.
  - Remove the fuel filler cap carefully.

- Put gas can and trimmer gas caps back on tightly. (Hand tighten as much as possible.)
- Move at least 10 feet from the re-fueling point and be sure there is no leakage of fuel from the gas cap or the fuel system before starting the engine.
- Operate in a well-ventilated area.
- Do not start if the blade is obstructed by the ground or any other object.
- Do not allow anyone to hold the material you are cutting.
- Always carry the trimmer with the engine stopped and the HOT muffler away from your body.
- Never operate the clipper with only one hand. Keep a firm grip on the trimmer with both hands.
- Start the unit on the ground with the throttle set at idle.
- Do all cutting at full throttle speed.
- Start and operate your hedge trimmer without assistance.
- Do not attempt to “drop start” your trimmer.
- If storing for more than a few days, empty the fuel tank.

WARNING: Prolonged use of a hedge trimmer may produce “whitefinger disease” (also known as Reynaud’s phenomenon) or carpal tunnel syndrome. These conditions reduce the hand’s ability to feel and regulate temperature, produce numbness and burning sensations and may cause nerve and circulation damage and tissue necrosis. If any of these symptoms appear, notify your supervisor and seek medical advice immediately.

## PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Protection Area	PPE Required
Eye	Safety glasses, goggles with side shields.
Face	Face shield as necessary.
Hand	Work gloves.
Head	
Foot	Steel toe or composite toe safety boots.
Body	Leather apron as necessary for type of job.
Respiratory	N95 dust mask as necessary.
Hearing	Wear earplugs or earmuffs when necessary.