

# Snow Blower safety

Instructor Guide

## Safety Talk Overview:

**What & Why?** Safety Talks are a method to refresh an employee’s knowledge and skills, maintain their interest in safety and illustrate the organization’s commitment to creating a healthy & safe work environment.

**Who & When?** Generally, these Safety Talk meetings are led by a supervisor, member of the JHSC, or Worker H&S Representative and should be mandatory for all crew members to attend. The content should be focused on a single topic. Safety Talks can be performed on a weekly basis or before the start of a new scope of work and should be about 15 minutes in duration.

go2HR developed this safety talk template for employers to customize and use for any topic in their organization. The Participant Handout should include information that you hope the worker will retain from the safety talk content and should be handed out during the safety talk for workers to reference later. Feel free to use it at your discretion.

**Snow Blower Safety Overview**

The aim of this Safety Talk is to minimize worker injury incidents when operating a snow blower. Most commercial snow blowers run on gas, although some are electric or battery-powered, both tending to be bulky and challenging to maneuver. Snow removal is frequently required during the winter months, posing a risk of musculoskeletal injuries if not handled correctly. While not as demanding as manual shoveling, operating a snow blower still requires physical effort.

**Safety Talk Outline (using the handout below):**

- Preventative Measures

- Discussion Questions

**Additional Resources:**

- [go2HR Ski Areas](https://www.go2hr.ca/health-safety/ski-areas)

- [CCOHS Snow Blowers](https://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/safety_haz/landscaping/snow_throwers.html)

## Topic Overview:

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## Safety Talk Facilitator Guidance

🞏 **Introduce** the topic and why it’s important

🞏 **Discuss** the associated hazards and likely incidents

🞏 **Tour** the work zone identifying hazardous areas

🞏 **Distribute** the Participant Handout

🞏 **Use** the info above to guide the discussion

🞏 **Document** the talk using the Safety Talk Record

🞏 **Explain** what controls are used to minimize the risks

🞏 **Remind** employees about applicable PPE usage

🞏 **Emphasize** the importance of safe work procedures

🞏 **Ask questions** to generate group discussion

🞏 **Answer any questions** or concerns they might have

🞏 **Set a good example** by working safely at all time

# Snow Blower Safety

Safety Talk Record

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Discussion Leader:** | **Date:** |
| **Department:** | Time: |

### Attendees (Please print your name and sign beside it. If you are a contractor, also include your company name):

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### Near miss/incidents and investigations reviewed: ☐ None this month

### Any questions or concerns from workers?

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Action needed:** | **Person responsible:** | **Due date:** | **Completed date:** |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

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| --- | --- |
| **Supervisor/Manager print name & sign:** | **Date:** |

### Reviewed by:

# Snow Blower Safety

The aim of this Safety Talk is to minimize worker injury incidents when operating a snow blower. Most commercial snow blowers run on gas, although some are electric or battery-powered, both tending to be bulky and challenging to maneuver. Snow removal is frequently required during the winter months, posing a risk of musculoskeletal injuries if not handled correctly. While not as demanding as manual shoveling, operating a snow blower still requires physical effort.

**Preventative Measures**

Snow blowers are essential tools for winter snow removal, but improper usage can lead to worker injuries. Understanding how to operate them safely and reviewing the following preventative measures is crucial for minimizing incidents:

**Potential Hazards**

- Snow blowers are typically heavy and may be difficult to maneuver, increasing the risk of strains and accidents

- Improper use of snow blowers can result in musculoskeletal injuries, particularly if operators exert excessive force or maintain poor posture

**Proper Operation Techniques**

- Maintain proper body mechanics, including lifting with the legs and keeping the back straight to prevent strains

- Regularly inspect snow blowers for any defects or damage that could compromise safety during operation

- Ensure the area is clear of obstacles and debris before starting the snow blower to prevent accidents

- Read the instruction manual to ensure you are aware of safety features and do not use if you are not trained

- Do not start or operate the machine in enclosed areas

- Only fuel the snow blower when the engine is off and cooled

- Disconnect the spark plug when moving or working on the machine

**Safety Tips**

- Ensure you are fit for duty and come to work well rested, hydrated and fed

- Do a quick warm up prior to using the snow blower to ensure your muscles are ready to go

- Take short breaks when you become fatigued to prevent strains

- Never stick your hand in the snow blower or leave the machine unattended

By recognizing potential hazards, and following proper operation techniques, workers can minimize the risk of injuries while effectively removing snow during the winter season.

**Discussion**

- How else can operators mitigate the risks associated with heavy and cumbersome snow blowers?

- How can the layout of our site affect the safe operation or snow blowers? What are some specific obstacles or hazards in our work area that we should pay particular attention to when using a snow blower?

Participant Handout

### For more information on this topic or if you have questions, contact: