



SAFETY ALERT

Snowblowers are useful tools but can be hazardous if used improperly.

A Conference employee was recently injured while attempting to clear a clogged snowblower. To minimize your and others' risk of injury:

- Carefully read the instruction manual and precautions before trying to start the snowblower.
 - Know how to stop the snowblower quickly and understand the operation of all controls.
- Make sure you wear the proper safety equipment: gloves, protective goggles, sturdy, non-skid boots and hearing protection.
- Inspect the area in which you are going to clear snow.
 - Remove debris and other obstacles the snowblower might strike or blow.
- If you hit an obstacle while operating the snowblower, stop the engine immediately and check for damage.
 - Damaged equipment may increase the possibility of injury during operation.
- Keep people away from the area of operation to avoid injury from flying debris and contact with the snowblower.
 - If people suddenly appear in front of the snowblower while it is operating, immediately release the auger and drive clutch levers to stop the snowblower.
 - Adjust the discharge chute to avoid hitting the operator, bystanders, windows and other objects with ejected snow.
- To prevent "clogging" of the discharge chute, use "Snowblower Non-Stick Spray", which coats the chute and auger just like a cooking spray, shielding the metal so snow passes through without sticking, clumping, or clogging.
- **If the snow discharge chute becomes clogged, stop the engine and use a stick or tool to unclog it.** NOTE, some snowblowers come with a special tool used to unclog the chute, others can be ordered.
 - NEVER put your hand in the discharge chute while the engine is running!!!





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- While operating the snowblower, hold the handle firmly and walk, don't run.
- Always keep equipment in good operating condition, and keep guards and shields in place.
- Refuel in a well-ventilated area with the engine stopped.
 - Do not overfill the fuel tank, and make sure the filler cap is closed securely after refueling.
 - Never run the engine in an enclosed or confined area. Exposure to carbon monoxide could cause loss of consciousness and may lead to death.
- The muffler becomes very hot during operation and remains hot for a while after stopping the engine. Be careful not to touch the muffler while it is hot. Let the engine cool before storing the snowblower indoors.

Please share this with employees; this alert and all safety talks and alerts are found at www.susumc.org/workplace-safety/