Chipper Safety

1. PPE
   a. Always wear close fitting, tucked in clothing while operating the chipper. Only short sleeve shirts are allowed when operating the chipper. Long sleeve shirts and/or pants with cuffs are never allowed.
   b. Always wear loose fitting gloves in case of a brush snag. Never wear gauntlet gloves, or gloves with cuffs, as these can snag easily.
   c. Always wear slip resistant footwear, eye protection (safety glasses) and hearing protection (ear plugs or ear muffs) when operating a chipper. A filtering face mask (dust mask) is optional.

2. Safe Operating Practices
   a. Read the operators manual and obtain training on the proper and safe use of the wood chipper prior to first use of the chipper.
   b. All safety devices and controls, such as emergency shut-off devices, must be tested and confirmed to be in proper working order before the chipper is used.
   c. Inspect the wood chipper each time before use. Check for defects such as broken or missing hood latches and pins or cracked and worn hinges. Replace any damaged or missing machine parts before use.
   d. Before starting the wood chipper, make sure that the hood that covers the chipper knives is completely closed and latched.
   e. Always set-up warning devices such as barricades, cones, flagmen, etc. prior to starting up the chipper to protect motorists and pedestrians.
   f. When you are ready to begin putting materials into the wood chipper, run it at the lowest possible speed. Listen for any noise that might indicate broken or loose parts. If an unusual noise is discovered, DO NOT use the wood chipper. Have a professional check out and/or repair the wood chipper as necessary.
   g. Never break the plane of the hopper with your hands while it is running.
h. Always remove the ignition key to the chipper when it is unattended.

i. Always feed the chipper from the curb side of the street (when parked in the street). Otherwise, feed the chipper from the side that the emergency shut-off is located.

j. Always feed tree limbs and brush butt-end first into the hopper of the chipper.

k. Move away from the wood chipper once it has grabbed the material intended for chipping.

l. Lay the shorter materials on top of the longer materials, or use a long branch to push the shorter material through the in-feed hopper.

m. Never place hands or feet into the feed chute.

n. Always be aware of the direction the discharge chute is pointed.

o. Never put rakings in that may contain rocks, glass, or objects that could shoot out.

p. Load leaves and small twigs directly into the wood chipper truck, not into the in-feed hopper.

q. Always be aware of your surroundings (people, cars, etc.)

r. Keep the area around the wood chipper clear of any tripping hazards.

s. When operating a disc chipper, always feed the brush from the right side while turning your body away (disc chipper swings branches to the left).

t. When operating a rotary drum chipper, always hold the brush end of a branch higher than the trunk.

u. Always make sure that all internal machine parts have come to a complete stop before opening the hood that is covering the chipper disc or drum of the wood chipper.
3. Maintenance

   a. All fluids should be checked and topped off, lubrication (grease) performed, and lights inspected prior to each usage.

   b. Never open any access panels while the chipper is operating.

   c. Never open the hood when the rotors are turning.

   d. Always lock the drum/cutting wheel when working on the chipper.

   e. If you have to work in the mouth (disc) of the chipper, always make sure it is held open with a stable object such as a chain or large block of wood.

4. Attaching and Removing a Chipper to or from a Vehicle

   a. The toe ring must always be in place when moving a chipper.

   b. Chains should be always crossed in case one becomes unhooked (use one with a spring loaded clip).

   c. Make sure chipper’s wheels are “blocked” when separating the chipper from the vehicle.

   d. Never rely on the tongue jack to hold the chipper in place. Support the chipper at the tongue when it is not attached to a vehicle.