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Sample General Safe Work Practice for Chipper

- Safety devices and controls, such as emergency shut-off devices, are tested and verified to be functioning properly before the chipper is used.
- Workers are trained in safe work procedures, including operating wood chipper safety devices and safety controls. These procedures should be based on the manufacturer's recommendations for each machine.
- At least two workers are in close contact with each other when operating the chipper.
- Workers wear close-fitting clothing, gloves without cuffs, trousers without cuffs, and skid-resistant foot wear. Clothing should be kept tucked in.
- Workers' hands and feet remain outside the infeed hopper.
- Workers feed brush and limbs into the infeed hopper butt end first.
- Workers feeding material are positioned at the side of the machine to allow quick operation of the emergency shut-off device and minimize risk of entanglement in branches. Because of differences among machines, the manufacturer's operating manual should be consulted for guidance. Safe feeding of some disc-type chippers requires the worker to be on the right side.
- Workers walk away once the feed mechanism has grabbed the material.
- Workers lay short material on top of longer material that's feeding or use a longer branch to push it through the infeed hopper.
- Workers load small raked-up material such as twigs and leaves directly into the chip truck or in trash cans or bags instead of feeding it into the chipper.
- Workers keep the area around the wood chipper free of slipping and tripping hazards.
- Workers wear hard hats, eye protection and hearing protection.

Please note: This document is for information purposes only as a guide. The safe job procedures (SJP) and safe work practices (SWP) created for your workplace should reflect your organizations processes, equipment and hazards as identified by a hazard analysis. Construction Safety Nova Scotia does not assume responsibility for the use of information in this document. If assistance is needed to complete a SWP and SJP for your organization please contact CSNS member services at constructionsafetyns.ca or 1.800.971.3888.