



## A Few Thoughts as Summer Approaches: Remember the Basics

*On a cool spring day late last March we were in the middle of cleaning up more than 50 trees that had been cut down throughout the winter. Two operators had been using four different chainsaws for hours on end without issue. Suddenly one came in with an injury. Not the operator, but one of the newer mid-size saws had been attacked (pictures show damage. Was not able to get shot of actual saw under tree trunk). Naturally, safety is enforced at all times. The upright section of this limb was supposed to fall the other way. Accidents happen. Fortunately with current technology in plastics and the design of this particular saw it was an easy repair and not too costly.*



### Temperature swings can cause more than goose bumps

During the sudden return to winter back in early April some other strange things happened. You don't realize just how quickly weather can change until you try and start up machines that were parked outside in the morning (after being in a heated garage overnight). After work, it was time to restart five Toro tri-plex mowers and park them back in the shop for the night. The temperature had dropped over 25 degrees from that morning. I had one older machine blow the main hydro pump seal upon start up. It gave no indication of problems prior to that moment. Another machine suddenly developed a lift cylinder seal leak. A third machine showed symptoms of a weak battery but ended up to be high starter draw. All of these glitches as a result of extreme cold temps. Better to have happened then and not now.

### Another basic but important tip

Before working on any spray rig make whatever time it takes to clean the entire machine thoroughly before hand. I personally am very sensitive to any chemical touching my skin. Nothing is so important that protection and a thorough cleaning of the rig should wait.



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### Mid-life eye crisis

Eye protection is at the top of the hit-list for technicians. I usually end up wearing my safety glasses throughout the day. I don't wear safety goggles as I have prescription glasses for nearsighted vision. I also now find the need for bifocal lenses when working under a machine checking cutting units and other items when the machine is in the lift. I have had a pair of prescription safety eyeglasses for many years and wear them daily. Last year I found myself tilting my eyes upwards above the eyeglass frame to see close objects. This left my eyes naked to debris and fluids.



*I'm wearing my old specs on the left and having to peer over the tops of them because of my farsightedness. My new biofocals on the right allow me to see what I'm doing through the glass.*

Did you know safety glasses are available in prescription? Did you also know that bifocal vision and what is called a double D lens are available in conjunction with your prescription?



I was so excited to learn that these are available and have been for quite some time. It took me no time at all to become used to them. Without vision coverage the over-the-counter price is around \$450. Eyesight is priceless. I am fortunate to have some benefits that covered most of the cost. I brought the glasses to our last TETA board meeting. As the board's average age is creeping up toward the vicinity of needing some extra help with eyesight, this was a good topic.



If you have any experiences through the year, please jot them down and email them to me. Everyone out there has tips that can help some of us in one or more ways.



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