



## SAFE OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR SNOW BLOWERS

D. MURRAY CAMERON, OALA • MANAGER OF PARKLANDS AND GREENWAYS • OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT • CITY OF GUELPH

**A**s it happens every year, we'll be feeling the effects of 'Old Man' winter before too long and will be well entrenched in our respective activities related to winter control. Preparing for winter snow events includes making sure our motorized equipment has been fully serviced and deemed reliable for the coming season. Along with ensuring the likes of snow blowers and sand/salt spreaders are fully operational, have you taken the time to train your staff as to the safe operation of the equipment they will be expected to use? If not, now is the time to put such measures into place.

The development of written standard operating procedures for workplaces is imperative. The Occupational Health and Safety Act states that a supervisor shall advise a worker of the existence of any potential or actual danger to the health or safety of the worker of which the supervisor is aware, and that the supervisor will take every precaution reasonable in the circumstances for the protection of a worker.

Before it's too late, you are encouraged to develop standard operating procedures (SOPs) for workplace tasks or use of equipment that has the potential to cause critical injury and/or occupational illness.

The responsibilities of hiring and training new and returning staff for our spring operations will be upon us sooner than we may like to think. Now is the time to plan for and demonstrate due diligence by ensuring your staff will be adequately trained and signed-off on standard equipment and/or operating procedures. With a safer winter operation in mind, the example of a *Snow Blower SOP* has been provided for your reference. Please revise it as you see fit to reflect the safe operation of your specific make and model of equipment. ♦

**SNOW BLOWER SOP ON NEXT PAGE**



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