

Accident Prevention Alert

SAFETY IN WINTER — SNOW BLOWERS

Each year, hundreds of people suffer injury or amputation of their fingers or hands due to the improper handling of snow blowers. We would like to provide information to help you avoid these injuries during the winter season.

The American Society for Surgery of the Hand states that snow blower incidents occur to the operator's dominant hand in 90% of all reported injuries, and amputations of tips of fingers are the most common occurrence.

Injuries are typically caused when:

Snow is clogging the exit chute of the machine and the operator does not notice that the impeller blades are still rotating even though the machine is turned off. The operator then attempts to clean the clogged exit chute with their hands and their hands connect with the rotating blades, resulting in severe injury to the hand.

Snow blowers are safe if they are used properly!

Remember — if your snow blower jams:

- Turn it OFF!
- Disengage the clutch.
- Wait at least five seconds after shutting the machine off to allow impeller blades to completely stop rotating.
- ALWAYS use a stick or broom handle to clear impacted/clogged snow.
- NEVER put your hand down the chute or around blades.
- Keep all shields in place.
- DO NOT REMOVE the safety devices on the machine.
- Keep hands and feet away from all moving parts.
- Keep a clear head and concentrate.
- DO NOT use your snow blower while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.



Enjoy your winter free of injury.

To access additional resources, visit the Risk Management Resource Center on www.eains.com, or contact your Regional office to speak with your Risk Management Consultant.