

SWMS Title:	Use of Blower Vacuum/Backpack Blower	Description of Task / Activity:	Use of Blower Vacuum/Backpack Blower
Partner Site:	All Partner Sites		
SWMS prepared by: Jennifer Hoffman	Position: Regional HSE Manager QLD	Date: 23/02/2024	SWMS reviewed by: Daniel Owen
Authorisation:			
Authorised by: Operational Business Unit Manager or Delegate		Date: 23/02/2024	

Hierarchy of Control	Risk Matrix																																																							
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Required PPE (Personal Protective Equipment)									
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1. Hazard / Hazardous Event	2. Current Controls
<p>Prestart Inspection/Preparation/Maintenance – Slips, Trips, manual handling, weather, collision with vehicles, other team members entering work area, electrocution.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure permission to work in the area is sought before you commence work. • Petrol blowers are not to be used in indoor areas under any circumstances. • Close access to the area until the job is completed (if practicable) or do the work after hours. • Review weather conditions prior to work commencing and determine if it is safe to proceed. • Operator/s to inspect the work area prior to operating the blower for any potential loose or sharp or flying objects. • Place safety sign/s in a position so that they can be easily seen to avoid any trip hazards, especially electrical leads. • Place barriers around the work area to avoid collision with other vehicles and unauthorised entry of other personnel. • Operator/s to familiarise themselves with safe operation and emergency shutdown procedures of the blower prior to use. • Operator/s to ensure all necessary covers and guards are in place prior to use. • Ensure correct manual handling techniques are used e.g. lift with back straight and knees bent. • Operator/s to ensure the motor is switched off during cleaning, maintaining or inspecting the blower where contact with rotating engine parts is possible. • If using battery operated blower, ensure batteries are fully charged prior to use of blower. • If using battery operated blower, ensure battery charger leads have been test and tagged and in date.
<p>Use of Cordless Blower Vacuum</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">   </div> <p style="font-size: small; text-align: right;">Battery Not Included</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid using the vacuum blower around LPG gas cylinders. • Ensure the vacuum blower is maintained and serviced as per manufacturer’s instructions prior to use and report any defects to line manager or supervisor. • Check the battery charger electrical leads are in good working order, tested, tagged and in date prior to use. • Check the dust bag prior to use for wear/deterioration and if required report to Team leader to tag out of service for replacement. • Wear safety glasses, face shield, safety footwear and hearing protection. • Avoid using chargers in rainy or wet locations, use chargers/ batteries supplied and designed by manufacturer. • Avoid using vacuum blower to shift volumes of water around electrical cabinets and or 240v electrical cords. • Inspect the work area for any potential loose or sharp or flying objects and remove where possible.

- Ensure the cordless blower vacuum shoulder straps are correctly secured to the machine, adjusted and in good working order prior to use.
- Lift the vacuum blower using correct manual handling practices with knees bent and back straight.
- Use arm/s for moving the vacuum blower in an arc motion and avoid twisting your back.
- Ensure when fitting the vacuum blower there is sufficient clearance from traffic, exposed edges or other.
- Ensure 4m clearance from others while using the blower function.
- Avoid placing fingers or other objects into the suction inlet or blower outlet.
- Ensure the vacuum blower is placed more than 2m away from walls, embankments, or structures.
- Ensure the vacuum blower switch is in the off position prior to inserting the battery.
- Switch off the vacuum blower when:
 - Removing, attaching the dust bag, opening, fastening the dust bag fastener, or opening the dust bag.
 - Removing blockages, fitting attachments, cleaning, maintenance, or inspection.
- Do not leave the vacuum blower running while unattended and avoid pointing the blower nozzle at others.
- Ensure when using the vacuum blower, the dust bag is attached and use during daylight or good lighting.
- Check the dust bag prior to use for wear/deterioration and if required report to Team leader to tag out service.
- Avoid using the vacuum blower near open windows and blowing debris towards others from the exhausted wind from the dust bag.
- Assess the work area and consult with store operations prior to moving pallets and other goods in the work area.
- Avoid using the vacuum blower from a ladder position or on structures within 2m of unprotected edges.
- Place the blower vacuum on a bench or close to waist height when fitting unit onto shoulder to minimise body overstretching.
- Ensure the battery cartridge has cooled prior to handling.
- Ensure when lifting the blower from ground level to place the unit onto shoulders the shoulder straps are adequately adjusted.
- Take regular rest breaks and job rotate where possible.
- Operator/s to maintain a correct straight posture with shoulders held back and head straight.
- Wear a dust mask when removing and disposing of debris from the dust bag of the Cordless Blower Vacuum.

Refuelling petrol operated blower.

- **Refuelling is to be completed by maintenance specialists only.**
- Use a suitable and appropriate jiggler siphoning hose fitting into the throat of the blower filling point.
- Ensure powered equipment is switched off and has cooled sufficiently prior to refuelling.
- Ensure operator is aware of site fire plan.
- Refuel powered equipment on the ground and not in the trailer to prevent static discharge from igniting the fuel and to refuel in outdoor areas only.
- Fill fuel containers on level ground away from the vehicle or trailer to avoid static discharge ignition of the fuel vapours.
- When refuelling on site use a correct fuel spout on the fuel pouring container.
- Avoid overfilling fuel tanks and fuel containers to avoid spillage when refuelling and allow spilled fuel to evaporate sufficiently prior to starting.
- Use absorbent material from spill kit to control spilt fuel. Place contaminated material in the disposable bags supplied in spill kit.
- Ensure when refilling powered equipment or fuel containers the fuel dispenser nozzle is always in contact with the rim of the fuel tank or spare fuel container.
- When filling fuel tanks and fuel containers the powered equipment and fuel containers are placed on level ground.
- Ensure to remove spilled fuel on clothing immediately.
- Fuel caps are properly secured after refuelling.
- Do not smoke while operating, servicing and refuelling powered equipment.
- Avoid operating powered equipment around LPG gas cylinders.
- Wear long sleeve shirts, pants, protective safety glasses and gloves while refuelling powered equipment.
- Use a 10l maximum refuelling container with a suitable pouring spout.
- Avoid drop starting powered equipment.
- Ensure powered equipment has adequate fuel prior to starting.
- Ensure the choke is on and stop switch is off prior to starting when cold.
- Confirm the use of equipment on days of total fire ban as per site fire requirements.

<p>Put Backpack Blower on or off – Manual Handling, slips, trips,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure to check the shoulder straps and waist belt are in good working order and adjusted correctly. • Place the leaf blower on a bench or close to waist height when fitting unit on body to minimise body overstretching. • Ensure when placing the blower onto or removing from shoulders there is adequate clearance from traffic, embankments, retaining walls, 2m from unprotected edges or other if required to step backwards or forwards due to loosing balance.
<p>Use of Blower – slips, trips, manual handling, eye/ face injury due to object flying around, dust, explosion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use arm/s for moving the leaf blower nozzle in an arc motion. • Wear safety glasses, safety footwear, hearing protection and Hi viz long sleeve shirt and pants. • Inspect the work area for any potential loose or sharp or flying objects and remove where possible. • Avoid pointing the blower nozzle towards others. • Ensure there is a minimum of 15 metre clearance between the blower and all other personnel in the area. • Ensure any loose or protruding fixtures, fittings, straps or blower pipes on the blower have been removed or adequately secured prior to climbing roof access stairs or ladders. • Wear a face mask in dusty conditions. • Avoid using the blower to shift volumes of water around electrical meter boards and or 240v electrical cords unless confirmed de-energised. • Operator/s to avoid leaving the blower unattended where there is the potential for a falling hazard. • Operator/s to avoid using the leaf blower around LPG gas cylinders. • Operator/s to avoid smoking around LPG gas cylinders. • Operator/s to observe and assess vehicular traffic, concrete, rubber wheel stops or wheel restraint devices prior to operating the blower.
<p>Completing the task – exiting the work area - Strains and sprains Slips, trips or falls, In the event of an emergency, Site awareness of who is on site</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove tools and equipment from the work area and use correct manual handling techniques. • Remove all waste materials and rubbish from the work area. • Identify recyclable materials and arrange drop off to appropriate recycling centre. • Waste materials to be disposed of in accordance with jurisdictional waste disposal requirements. • Ensure worksite is clean and tidy. • Remove barricades. • Ensure area is free from trip hazards.

3. Additional Information	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">For Additional Information contact the HSE Team.	
4. Activity Risk Rating:	Medium (C3)