String Trimmers (Weed Whips) and Edgers – Landscaping Stats and Facts



FACTS

Primary hazards and types of injuries associated with the use of string trimmers and edgers in landscaping.

1. **Lacerations and Cuts:** Direct contact with the fast-moving cutting line or blade can cause deep lacerations and cuts.
    - These tools can eject debris like stones, sticks, and other objects at high speeds.

1. **Eye Injuries:** The high-speed rotation of string trimmers and edgers can throw small debris into the air, leading to serious eye injuries.
2. **Hearing Damage:** String trimmers produce high noise levels, exceeding safe limits.
3. **Musculoskeletal Injuries:** Prolonged use of these tools can lead to repetitive strain injuries in the back, shoulders, and arms due to the vibrations and the physical effort required to operate them□□.
4. **Burns:** Gas-powered trimmers and edgers can become extremely hot□.
5. **Slip and Fall Hazards:** Working on wet grass or uneven terrain can increase the risk of slips and falls.

STATS

USA

- According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), there were approximately 4,600 injuries related to string trimmers in 2020.
- An estimated 81,907 injuries involving lawn trimmers were treated in U.S. emergency departments.
- The most affected groups were men, individuals aged 40-49, and Caucasians. Eye injuries were particularly prevalent, accounting for 42.5% of all injuries, with contusions and abrasions being the most common types of head injuries. Lacerations were frequently reported in the extremities, while strains and sprains were common in the trunk.
- Nearly 50% of injuries are lacerations, and approximately 21.5% involve amputations. These severe injuries are often caused by direct contact with the fast-moving cutting line or blade of the trimmer.

- Approximately 6% of injuries involve foreign bodies in the eye, often from flying debris.
- In February 2024, Husqvarna recalled approximately 17,230 gas-powered grass trimmers sold in Canada due to a fire hazard. The recall was prompted by reports of the trimmers catching fire or producing electrical sparks, which led to one reported case of burns on a consumer’s leg and arm when they attempted to extinguish a fire. In total, the company received 12 reports of such incidents.
- A significant number of emergency room visits in Canada are related to the use of lawn care equipment, including string trimmers. These injuries often result in hospitalization due to their severity.