**Safe Work Practice**

**TASK – Electric Pressure Washer**

****** *This task may only be performed by trained and authorized personnel.*

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| **Hazards Present:**   * Exposure to high pressure water jet * Electrical Contact * High-velocity impact * Chemical exposure (if applicable) * Burns (steam pressure washer) * Visual impairment (steam washer) * Musculoskeletal injury * Back Spray | **Personal Protective Equipment**  **(PPE)**  **or Devices Required:**   * eye protection (splash goggles) * face protection * waterproof clothing * Hand protection * GFCI protected outlet | **Additional Training**  **Requirements:**   * Trained in the use of pressure washers in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions. * WHMIS (if applicable) |

**DANGER: Failure to follow this Safe Work Practice may result in SERIOUS INJURY or DEATH.**



***NOTE:*  *All procedures obtained from mySafetyAssistant™, operator manuals or other samples must have the consultation of workers and be thoroughly reviewed to ensure they are accurate for your workplace and your jobs!***

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| **Pre-Use Inspection:**   1. Inspect pressure washer carefully before use. Look for the following signs of wear or damage:    * nuts or nicks in the cable,    * signs of loose connections (i.e. outer insulation pulling back from plug connections exposing the coloured conductors),    * loose, broken or missing covers,    * proper operation of all safety mechanisms,    * check for leaks on fitting, hoses or castings. 2. Do not operate if any defects are found. Lock out and remove equipment from service. Report defects to your supervisor.   **Electrical Safety**  **ELECTRICAL SHOCK HAZARD. It is obvious that pressure washers will make the work area wet. Worker may be standing in water, and the equipment may be standing in water. The water makes the effects of electrical shock more severe than in other circumstances.**   1. It is best if pressure washer is permanently wired to the electrical supply. 2. If a direct electrical supply is not possible, plug your cord directly into the receptacle, DO NOT USE EXTENSION CORDS. 3. If the equipment cannot be permanently connected then you must use a residual current device (AKA Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter – GFCI). This will provide a measure of protection from electric shock for the operator. 4. Ensure the circuit is installed by a licensed electrician and ensure system is checked to supply adequate voltage under load. 5. Ensure all cables are routed away from walkways, traffic routes and abrasive objects to avoid them being run over and damaged.   **General**   1. Ensure all required PPE is worn before operating pressure washer. 2. Turn on the power switch. Pull trigger gun and check for adequate pressure. 3. Do not direct high-pressure jets towards your skin. Depending on the psi, the water can cut through your skin, or there is a risk that particles of dirt or other fluids (i.e. cleaning agents) could be forced through the skin or splash into the eye causing serious injury. 4. Pressure washers are not to be operated in the rain. 5. Do not point the wand at yourself or any other person. Serious injury may result. 6. Other employees must be trained to not approach a operator when pressure washing is in process.    * If anyone approaches, turn pressure washer off. 7. Once completing your task, turn system off, and hold trigger to release air pressure. Air pressure left in system will cause damage to equipment. 8. *Use caution if operating from a stepladder. Potential “kickback” can cause unbalancing.*   **Proper operation:**   1. Do not start the machine until all quick connect hoses have been checked to confirm that they are in a locked position. 2. Pressure washers produce a kickback. Maintain firm footing and grip to avoid injury. 3. Never leave the system unattended while energized. 4. Lockout pump (de-energize) when a nozzle, lance or hose is replaced, adjusted or inspected. 5. Become familiar with the operating controls. Know how to stop the equipment and to bleed the pressure quickly. 6. Do not crimp or tie off hoses against sharp objects. 7. Modifications to trigger device (or tying down) are not permitted. 8. Ensure that any electrical equipment in the immediate area of the pressure washer is de-energized. 9. If using a chemical injector, read and follow the chemical supplier’s MSDS for additional protective clothing and safety equipment requirements, including the requirements for respiratory protection. 10. *To avoid damage and flying particle risks, do not start with the spray too close to the surface to be cleaned.*   **Steam Pressure Washers**   1. If using a steam pressure washer, avoid contact with non-insulated areas to prevent risk of serious burns. 2. If steaming indoors or in the cold air ensure there is adequate ventilation to sustain visibility. |

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| **Clean Nozzle:**   1. Lock out pressure washer before disconnecting your spray wand from the gun *and* cleaning your nozzle. 2. Clean the nozzle with a small rigid piece of wire (like a paperclip) 3. Flush the nozzle backwards with water. 4. Restart the pressure washer and depress the trigger on the spray gun. |

**In case of emergency *or* equipment malfunction:  
Engage emergency stop *and* follow the lock out procedures.**



***NOTICE:* Report all hazardous situations to your supervisor without delay!**

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| **Guidance Documents / Standards / Applicable Legislation / Other:**  **Guidance Documents**:   * Manufacturer’s Operation Manual   **CSA Standards**   * CSA Z94.3-02 Eye and Face Protectors * CSA Z94.2-02 Hearing Protection Devices   **MB Workplace Safety & Health Regulation, MR 217/2006:**   * Part 6 Personal Protective Equipment * Part 16 Machines, Tools and Robots | **This Safe Work Practice will be reviewed any time the task, equipment, or materials change and at a minimum every three years.**   |  | | --- | | Completed / Approved By: | |  | | Date Completed: | |  | | SWP Last Reviewed / Revised by and date: | |  | |

**This Safe Work Practice has had the consultation of the following workers:**

Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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