

# MAFES Dawg Tracks

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## Safety Tips: Pressure Washer

Pressure washers are very powerful tools that can spray water at high pressure on buildings, roads and farm equipment. These washers are also “God-sent” pieces of equipment to mitigate disaster situations of various kinds. In spite of the advantages these machines offer in clean up jobs, like all equipment, there is still the high risk of injury that has to be dealt with.

The “**Golden Rule**” for all types of equipment use is: “**Read and become totally familiar with the manufacturer’s manual of instructions before using it.**”

### **USER’S RISKS-**

- ✓ The strong spray from a pressure washer can cause serious wounds that might first appear minor. Wounds that appear minor can cause a person to delay treatments, which could increase risk for infection, disability, or amputation.
- ✓ The fast, powerful spray can throw objects that strike and injure others who are close by.
- ✓ Electrical shock can occur if the pressure washer is not used properly and if the safety instructions aren’t followed.
- ✓ Using small gasoline powered engines can cause carbon monoxide poisoning. Be sure to use them in well-ventilated areas. Refrain from using them in closed buildings or other partially enclosed areas. Try to locate the machine outside of an enclosed structure where the hoses will reach inside, but not the machine.

### **SAFETY TIPS-**

- Never point a pressure in the direction of other people.
- Never try to push or move objects with the spray from the washer.
- Never use gasoline pressure washers in enclosed areas.
- Always test the *ground fault circuit interrupter (circuit breaker or outlet)* before using a pressure washer.
- Always plug a properly grounded pressure washer into a properly grounded receptacle.

- If you have to use an extension cord, be sure to keep the pressure washer’s power cord out of any standing water. Use an extension cord that is made and rated for use in wet locations. Keep both the power cord and the extension cord connections as far away as possible from the object that you are pressure washing, and also in the area of the water runoff.
- Wear rubber soled shoes that provide some insulation when using a pressure washer.
- Never cut or splice the pressure washer’s power cord or extension cord.
- Never remove the grounding prong from the pressure washer’s power cord plug or the extension cord.
- Always have a qualified electrician check the pressure washer for electrical problems after it has tripped at the circuit breaker.
- Never allow children or untrained folks to operate a pressure washer.

### **IF YOU ARE HURT BY A PRESSURE WASHER-**

- Call 911 if emergency help is needed.
- Take care of any wounds.
- Before treating the wound, wash your hands with soap and clean water.
- Remove any object that is in the way of caring for the wound.
- Put pressure on the wound with a clean cloth to stop the bleeding.
- After the bleeding has stopped, pour bottled or clean running water over the wound.
- Gently clean around the wound with soap and water.
- Pat dry and use an adhesive bandage or dry clean cloth to cover the wound.
- Leave unclean wounds open.

### **OTHER TIPS-**

- Use the right nozzle.
- Use the right cleaner.
- Adjust the spray angle.
- Always wash from the ground up.
- Be safe.

**SAFETY - NOT JUST A  
SLOGAN  
IT’S A WAY OF LIFE!**