



CompWest Loss Lessons: Landscapers

True Story

While completing routine work, employees were utilizing a woodchipper. As they were doing so, a large explosion occurred, which resulted in significant injuries.

Lessons Learned

- Gas and gas-powered equipment should be stored away from a woodchipper
- Do not place tools in the empty housing unit to transport equipment
- Ensure employees are aware of equipment and that it remains away from the woodchipper
- Train new employees on the proper transportation and use of a woodchipper
- Have a manager or supervisor onsite
- Contact Cal/OSHA after a serious injury

Prevention Tips

- Train and supervise new employees
- Inspect equipment prior to use
- Do not store any materials in the interior housing unit or close to machinery that could become entangled with moving parts – place them in the bed of the truck or secure them to the outside of the vehicle
- Always wear personal protection equipment (PPE)

Additional Resources

- [Serious Injury Reporting Requirements Per Cal/OSHA](#)
- [Personal Protective Equipment Hazard Assessment](#)

The advice presented in this document is intended as general information for employers. For further information, please contact your CompWest loss control consultant.

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