Safety concerns when treating invasive species

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The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station
Established in 1875
Applied research
Insect & disease identification
Soil testing
How can invasives be controlled?

**Short Term** – Slow the Spread / Rapid Response  
(jump ugly on new infestations)

**Limit deer browse intensity**

**Established infestations**

- Biological / Cultural
- Mechanical
- Chemical (herbicide)
- Propane torch/prescribed fire
Legal Disclaimer

“Safety...YES” has no affiliations with any of the following:

- Rock bands with similar names from England,
- Cable channels devoted to the 27-time World Series Champions New York Yankees,
- Any other YES products which may exist in the marketplace
So really, what is it?

- **YOURSELF** - You are #1, are you ready for the work?
- **EQUIPMENT** - Is it in proper working order?
- **SURROUNDINGS** - Where are you working?

YOURSELF
INJURY FACTS*
*Nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses requiring days away from work, 2009. BLS.

- 1.2 million nonfatal workplace injuries were reported.
- How did they get them?
  - 25% were slips, trips, and falls.
  - 24% were contact injuries.
  - 22% were overexertion.

YOURSELF

It is important to KNOW YOUR LIMITS

Things you can do:
- Warm up beforehand
- Stay hydrated
- Stretch out
- Take rest breaks
EQUIPMENT

- Personal Protective Equipment
- Condition of Equipment
- Familiarity with Equipment
- First aid kit available? Cell phone to call 911?
SURROUNDINGS

- Where are other team members, general public?
- Where are trip, fall, cut hazards?
- Let's not forget about the soil, the slope, the heat, humidity, the cold, the wet, and the wind.
- ALL THESE INFLUENCE THE WAY WE AND OUR EQUIPMENT PERFORM.
Control Techniques

- Biological control
- Cultural
- Mechanical
- Chemical (herbicide)
- Propane torch / prescribed fire

Limit deer browse intensity
Control Techniques

Biological control
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Limit deer browse intensity
Personal protective equipment

**Hand tools**
- Gloves and eye protection

**Brush saw**
- Boots and gloves
- Pants and L/S shirt (pieces get thrown)
- Safety glasses, hearing protection

**Chain saw**
- That’s a whole other lecture

All – first-aid kit to stop bleeding

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**Equipment/Surroundings**

**Did YOU?**
- Check equipment for proper working order
- Check area for unstable surfaces (i.e., slick muddy slope)
- Discuss maintaining a safe distance between folks using power equipment (again, chainsaws are a whole other lecture)
Control Techniques

- Biological control
- Cultural
- Mechanical
- Chemical (herbicide)
  - Propane torch / prescribed fire

Limit deer browse intensity

Personal protective equipment

**The LABEL is the law!!**
- Pants and long-sleeve shirt
- Boots [gloves, safety glasses]
- Whatever else required by label

**Pesticide Applicator Operational Certificate**
- Not legally required for non-commercial applications of many herbicides, but a good idea
Equipment/Surroundings

Did YOU?
- Check equipment for proper working order
- Bring proper supplies for mixing
- Bring a spill kit (accidents do happen)
- Plan how to avoid non-target species and applications to wetlands
- Discuss maintaining a safe distance between applicators and for post-treatment posting
- Plan how to safely store unused solutions and how to clean equipment

Control Techniques

Biological control
Cultural
Mechanical
Chemical (herbicide)
Propane torch / prescribed fire

Limit deer browse intensity
**Personal protective equipment**

Are *YOU* wearing the proper gear?

- Leather boots and gloves
- Non-flammable canvas/cotton pants and long-sleeve shirt
- Safety glasses
- Hearing protection

**First-aid kit for burns & bleeding**

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**Equipment**

**Propane torch**
- Business end: 1,800°F
- Propane tank: -40°F

**Connections and hose**
- Cracked or leaky?
- Rubber is a natural product and will degrade.
- Can you smell ethyl mercaptan?

Is it safe? Regularly check your gear them to make sure it is ready for work!
Equipment/Surroundings

Did YOU?

- Check equipment for leaks and proper working order
- Bring fire suppression equipment
- Make sure conditions won’t start a wildfire
- Continue to monitor conditions for wildfire

YOURSELF - You are #1.
EQUIPMENT - Is it in proper working order?
SURROUNDINGS - Where are you working?
YES you can treat invasives, but YES you need to do it safely

Untreated barberry

Bye-bye invasives

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