

SVT Stewardship Volunteer Tool Safety Policy
Accepted by the Stewardship Committee 11-16-11

Sudbury Valley Trustees relies on volunteer labor to complete our work and strives to ensure the safety of our volunteers. SVT stewardship volunteers often use tools in their roles as property stewards and trail maintenance volunteers. These include hand tools, and at times power tools.

Hand Tools

SVT will lend its hand tools to volunteers for use on SVT reservations for maintenance of trails or other work. These often include loppers, bow saws, rakes, shovels, axes, etc. When tools are loaned out, their use and safety measures are explained by SVT staff. Many volunteers also use their own tools when they prefer to do so, or when SVT does not have a tool for a specific need.

Power Tools

SVT maintains power tools and machinery that are utilized in the stewardship of SVT reservations. These include DR Field and brush mowers, lawn mowers, a lawn tractor, a field tractor with brush hog, a string trimmer and a chain saw. These tools are primarily used by SVT staff. Under some circumstances, volunteers over the age of 18 will use some of these machines in conjunction with staff or on their own. These are limited to mowers and string trimmers. In these cases, SVT staff provides a safety briefing and reviews the operation of the machines with the volunteer, until staff and the volunteer is comfortable with their demonstrated use.

Volunteers who have their own power tools (and necessary safety equipment) and are comfortable using them for tasks on SVT reservations also do so, if staff feels comfortable that the volunteer does know how to safely use the power tool.

Below is a list of appropriate safety equipment that will be used with the power tools referenced above.

DR Field and Brush Mower, Lawn Mowers and Tractors: Hearing Protection

String Trimmer: Hearing Protection, Face Shield/Eye Protection

Chain Saw: Hard Hat with Hearing Protection, Eye Protection, Kevlar Chaps