

Keep Your Outdoor Power Equipment Ready For Unpredictable Weather

The logo for Turf, featuring the word "Turf" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. A green grass blade graphic is integrated into the letter "T". A registered trademark symbol (®) is located at the bottom right of the word.The logo for Tree Services, featuring the words "Tree Services" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. A small green leaf graphic is positioned above the letter "i" in "Services". Below the main text is the tagline "Taking Tree Care to New Heights" in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. A registered trademark symbol (®) is located at the top right of the word "Services".The logo for DesignBuild, featuring the word "Design" in a black, sans-serif font and the word "Build" in a bold, orange, sans-serif font. A small orange square graphic is positioned above the letter "i" in "Design". A registered trademark symbol (®) is located at the top right of the word "Build".The logo for PLOW, featuring the word "PLOW" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. A registered trademark symbol (®) is located at the top right of the word.

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Weather today can be challenging. With that in mind, the [Outdoor Power Equipment Institute](#) (OPEI) is reminding business owners that it's important to make sure you have the right outdoor power equipment on hand and to keep that equipment in good working order year-round.

A chainsaw or pole pruner can trim limbs ahead of a storm or handle fallen limbs helping to clear debris. A generator will power appliances and keep lights on and cell phones charged when the electricity goes out. A water pump can help with flooding in your basement. A utility vehicle can be maneuverable and is smaller than a car, helping transport people and supplies quickly in an emergency.



(Photo: Outdoor Power Equipment Institute)

Today's outdoor power equipment is increasingly easier to use, more efficient and cleaner, and powered in a variety of ways – including battery/electric, hybrids, propane, and solar as well as gasoline and diesel. Even robotic, interconnected and remote-controlled technology has entered the power equipment market.

"We've experienced a lot of problematic weather lately but, thankfully, there is a product and power source for every need and to address every scenario. Being prepared for the unpredictable is easier than ever before," said Kris Kiser, President & CEO of [OPEI](#), the international trade association representing manufacturers and suppliers of outdoor power equipment, small engines, battery power systems, portable generators, utility and personal transport vehicles, and golf cars.

OPEI offers the following tips:

- **Get ready in advance.** Before a disaster or storm strikes is the best time to buy outdoor power equipment. You never know when the electricity might go out or when a storm might arise.
- **Know your needs.** Determine what might need to be cleaned up or tidied before severe weather arrives. Decide what equipment is needed to keep people and property safe before and after a disaster or power outage.
- **Do research.** Outdoor power equipment has changed a lot from year's past. The industry is rapidly innovating with equipment becoming faster, lighter, more efficient, more ergonomic and cleaner. Get recommendations from dealers and store personnel who are well versed in equipment.
- **Buy what fits your needs.** Each equipment type and power source has different maintenance and care requirements. Equipment is sized for

different levels of need, so it's important to buy what works for your unique situation.

- **Think ahead and purchase accessories.** Buy outdoor-rated extension cords for generators, and consider getting an approved cover for your generator for rainy weather. Buy and install a carbon monoxide detector if purchasing a generator. Plan now where the generator will be set up and determine how to secure it if necessary. Identify safety equipment needed like chaps, eye protection or hearing protection. Gasoline-powered outdoor power equipment uses E10 or less fuel and most manufacturers recommend adding a fuel stabilizer.
- **Purchase appropriate fuel and charge batteries just ahead of a storm.** Only use an approved fuel container for gasoline, and have an extra set of batteries on hand.
- **Review manufacturer's directions and maintain your equipment.** Always follow all safety and usage recommendations made by the manufacturer. Save a digital copy of the owner's manual on your computer if possible, so it can easily be consulted in the future. Set calendar reminders for regular maintenance.

Want to share equipment ideas with fellow lawn care and landscape professionals? Join the discussions in the [Equipment Forum](#) at www.expired-link.com.