Snow blowers can be our best friend following a heavy snowfall but they can also be very dangerous.

Here are some snow blower safety tips:

- Always allow unit and engine to adjust to outdoor temperatures before clearing snow.
- Stay alert for traffic, pedestrians or other hazards.
- Always be sure of your footing, especially when operating in reverse or leaving the operator’s position. Walk, never run, during operation.
- Be extra cautious while operating near drop-offs, embankments, uneven and rough terrain. Snow blowers can turn over if a wheel is over the edge of a cliff or ditch, or if an edge caves in.
- Adjust runners so a scraper blade does not contact gravel surfaces.
- Keep movement on slopes slow and gradual and avoid starting or stopping on a slope.
- Always look down and behind before and while backing.
- Disengage the attachment drive when traveling from one work area to another.
- Run the snow blower for a few minutes after clearing snow to prevent freeze-up of attachment.
- Operate only with proper guards or other protective devices are in place and working properly.
- Do not park snow blowers on a slope unless absolutely necessary. If necessary to park on a slope, always block the wheels.
- Do not direct the snow discharge toward people.
- Do not leave a running snow blower unattended. Always shut off engine and remove the key.

Adapted from: [www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/safety_haz/landscaping/snow_thowers.html](http://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/safety_haz/landscaping/snow_thowers.html)