**Standard Operating Procedure**

Grounds Department employees shall not utilize personal headphones, radios, or tape players while operating power equipment.

**Purpose**

To make a safer work place and to promote the reduction of accident risk.

**Procedure**

Research published in the January/February, 1993, issue of Traffic Safety indicates that the use of music headphones by equipment operators reduces the operator's awareness of surrounding conditions.

1. Operators of power equipment are prohibited from wearing any type of headphone which deters from the ability to hear a potential hazard.

2. Hearing protection may be worn once it is approved for its intended application by the Industrial Hygienist on campus.