

Safe Operating Procedure Brush Cutter

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We are located at:
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The instructions recommended within this document apply to normal risk conditions. If the Brush Cutter is to be operated in a dangerous or hostile environment, the user/client is responsible for conducting an appropriate risk analysis and applying suitable controls to mitigate those additional risks.

This instruction should be read in conjunction with the Risk Assessment.

GENERAL SAFETY

- Safety goggles, face mask and Hi-Vis Jacket must be worn at all times in work areas.
- Appropriate footwear (steel caps) with substantial chaps must be worn.
- Close fitting/protective clothing must be worn.
- Hearing protection must be worn when using this machine.
- A dust mask is to be used if dust, pollen or foliage is sprayed into the air
- Check for damaged cutting blades
- Barricade work area if necessary to maintain clear area and free from other persons.
- Allow unit to cool down before refueling

TRANSPORT OF BRUSH CUTTER

- Ensure unit is firmly tied down on transport vehicle without damaging motor, blade, guard or fuel components
- Avoid handling blades

OPERATING CONDITIONS

- Inspect for fuel leaks. **DO NOT OPERATE UNIT IF LEAKS ARE FOUND.**
- **FAULTY EQUIPMENT MUST NOT BE USED. REPORT SUSPECT BRUSH CUTTER IMMEDIATELY.**
- Check the effectiveness of operating controls.
- Check balance of unit by adjusting support strap
- Ensure safety guard is functioning and there is no damage to blade and guard.
- Start cut with blade rotating
- **KEEP CLOSE WATCH ON CUTTING ACTION AND MAINTAIN BOTH HANDS ON UNIT**
- Be alert for variation in cutting progress
- Clear accumulating debris.
- **NEVER USE A BRUSH CUTTER ABOVE WAIST LEVEL.**
- Keep feet well clear of cutters
- Stop engine before refilling the fuel tank.

INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE

- Inspect for fuel leaks.
- Ensure safety guard is secure and functioning.
- Check cutters for damage and vibration
- Check brush cutter shaft for damage
- Ensure support strap and its adjustment are not damaged

**The above instructions must be followed at all times
If any of the instructions are not possible, contact the site supervisor
for an assessment of any safety requirements**

Brush Cutter Risk Assessment

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Likely Risk Issue	Who/ What may be harmed? (Specific Persons)	What is the Rate Level? (Rate risk as Low, Medium or High)	What Risk Control Actions Needs to Be Taken? (What needs to be considered so that the risks are identified and effectively controlled)	Time Frame
General Safety	Participants Operators Spectators Staff	Severity of Risk (S)- 3 Likelihood of Risk (L)- 2 Overall Risk (S x L)= 6 MEDIUM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operators to be competent or given practical demonstration Ensure cutter guard is not damaged and is secure Safety goggles and hearing protection to be worn while cutter is in operation Safety footwear and substantial chaps to be worn No loose clothing, wear gloves and Hi-Vis shirt. Keep other people clear of work area and barricade work area if necessary Brush cutter to be switched off before setting aside and immediately if cutter jams Ensure brush cutter is well balanced to prevent back fatigue 	Every Hire
Brush Cutter handling	Participants Operators Spectators Staff	Severity of Risk (S) - 3 Likelihood of Risk (L) - 2 Overall Risk (S x L) = 6 MEDIUM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operator to use both hands when operating brush cutter Unit to be switched off before refueling, setting aside or when there is a cutter jam Keep other people clear of work area Stop other persons from operating the unit Firm footwear to be worn and care taken to prevent slips and trips 	Every Hire
Leaking fuel causing fire or slipping hazard	Participants Operators Spectators Staff	Severity of Risk (S)- 3 Likelihood of Risk (L)- 1 Overall Risk (S x L)= 3 LOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operators to check machine regularly for fuel and oil leaks Unit to be turned off and cooled before refueling and ensure fuel cap is replaced firmly Firm footwear to be worn and care taken to prevent slips and trips 	Every Hire
Noise & dust	Participants Operators Spectators Staff	Severity of Risk (S)- 2 Likelihood of Risk (L)-2 Overall Risk (S x L)= 4 MEDIUM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operator and other persons in the vicinity to wear hearing protection. Do not use in a confined space Wear dust mask if pollen, dust or foliage is sprayed into the air 	Every Hire
Burns and injuries		Severity of Risk (S)- 3 Likelihood of Risk (L)- 2 Overall Risk (S x L)= 6 MEDIUM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit to be allowed to cool down before carrying out any adjustments or refueling Operators to ensure hands and feet are clear of cutter during operation Gloves to be worn to prevent burns and cutter injuries 	Every Hire

Calculation of Risk Evaluation

Severity of Risk (S) is judged by evaluating the effects of the hazard if the risk occurs. This is evaluated as Minor = 1, Major = 2, Serious = 3

Risk Likelihood (L) - The likelihood of the harm occurring is evaluated on the basis of: Unlikely =1, Possible = 2, Likely = 3

Overall Risk is calculated by multiplying the figure for Severity (S) and Likelihood (L).

The overall risk figure calculated is related to the Risk Level of either Low: 1 to 3; Medium: 4 to 6 or High: 7 to 9

NB This is a generic risk assessment only. It is advisable to carry out a site-specific assessment prior to using this equipment.