



Safety Rules: Brush Cutter Operation

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1

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July 2015

Purpose

This document outlines the rules for the safe operation of brush-cutters.

Scope

This document applies to all ground/maintenance workers.

Training

Supervisors shall arrange for ground/maintenance workers to be trained in the safe and correct operation by a person experienced in brush-cutter usage and with reference to the Manufacturer's Instruction booklet.

Rules

1. Operators **must follow the operating procedures outlined in the Manufacturer's instruction booklet.** The Manufacturer's Instructions must be kept with the equipment.
2. The operator must ensure there are no persons or public property that may be hit by flying debris.
3. Operator to inspect area to be cleared, any potential projectiles (eg rocks) removed, and if required the work area must be cordoned off and members of the public kept clear.
4. PPE to be worn: long pants, long sleeved shirt, Safety boots, Eye protection, Face protection, Ear protection and sun protection.
5. The Brush-cutter is to be inspected before every use and maintained to manufacturer's specification.
6. A First Aid kit should be kept in close proximity of operations.
7. Use appropriate manual handling techniques – do not bend and twist the back, use the legs. Take regular rest breaks. Remember, vibration can also cause manual handling injuries.
8. **For electrical brush cutters** – only high visibility outdoor rated extension leads must be used. Only one extension lead of appropriate length is to be used – **do not** use multiple extension leads together to obtain the required length. The operator must remain vigilant during usage to ensure the blades are kept well away from the extension cord. Residual current devices (safety switches) must be used with this machine at all times.
9. **For petrol brush cutters** – only refuel in designated **outdoor** refuelling area. **Do not** refuel hot equipment. Always allow equipment ample time to cool down before refuelling. Do not overcrowd refuelling area. Ensure any fuel spills are dealt with appropriately.