

**STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE**

SOP No: 032

Workplace: University-wide

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TASK/ OPERATION: Brush Cutter Safety

Operating Procedure Developed by: OHSW Services

Approved By:
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Date: 13/05/2002

Review Completed by:

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Sequence of Job Steps (What to do in the right order)	Potential Hazards/Risks of Each Step	Standard Operating Procedure (How to do it)	Personal Protective Equipment
SPECIAL NOTE		NO PERSONNEL ARE TO USE THIS EQUIPMENT WITHOUT UNDERGOING THOROUGH PRACTICAL TRAINING WHILE PROPERLY SUPERVISED.	
Adjust the Harness	Muscle Strain to arms Back Fatigue	<p>Inspect complete harness before fitting.</p> <p>Ineffective/ damaged harness could break, causing brush cutter to hit the operator.</p> <p>The harness should be adjusted so that the saw can be hung at normal height for adjustment of balance.</p> <p>Hook should be about 15 cm (6 inches) below the hip bone.</p> <p>For a person of average height, when the saw is at normal height and held in the cutting position: the blade should slope slightly forwards, permitting stumps to go clear under the guard.</p> <p>The stump height should be about 20 cm (8 inches).</p> <p>Incorrect fitting results in undue pressure on back and arms causing strain, fatigue, etc.</p> <p>AVOID SHARING A HARNESS.</p>	Overalls Safety Boots Gloves

Sequence of Job Steps (What to do in the right order)	Potential Hazards/Risks of Each Step	Standard Operating Procedure (How to do it)	Personal Protective Equipment
Adjust Saw Balance	Muscle Strain to Arms Back Fatigue	<p>Fuel tank should be half full.</p> <p>Stand on level ground.</p> <p>Allow the saw to hang in the harness, letting go of the handles.</p> <p>The blade should then rise a little above stump-height.</p>	Overalls Safety Boots Gloves
Adjust Handles	Muscle Strain to Arms Back Fatigue	<p>Adjust the handles to suit the individual.</p> <p>Work becomes easier if your posture is correct - fatigue is decreased and output will rise.</p> <p>Be sure to adjust the handles properly.</p> <p>Generally the best working stance is secured with the handle setting that causes the elbows to be slightly bent, with a moderate gap between the handles.</p> <p>It should be possible to rest the body against the left handle.</p>	Overalls Safety Boots Gloves
Final Adjustment of the Harness	Muscle Strain to Arms Back Fatigue	<p>To give even pressure on both shoulders, make sure that the blade is exactly in front of you when the saw hangs freely and you stand squarely on your feet.</p> <p>Adjust suspension height according to the nature of the job.</p> <p>Generous height is required if the terrain is stony and bumpy or when clearing after clear-cutting.</p> <p>Low height is preferred on even terrain with no stones or particularly if low stub height is required.</p>	Overalls Safety Boots Gloves

Sequence of Job Steps (What to do in the right order)	Potential Hazards/Risks of Each Step	Standard Operating Procedure (How to do it)	Personal Protective Equipment
Refueling Brush Cutter	Fire Burns Inhaling Fumes	<p>Refuel working "over" brush cutter for maximum control.</p> <p>Ensure the correct fuel mix is used.</p> <p>Use an appropriate fuel container with a filling spout.</p> <p>Do not refuel in a confined area due to danger of inhaling fumes.</p> <p>When refuelling, ensure area is free from any source of flame or sparks.</p>	Overalls Safety Boots Gloves
Personal Safety	Eye Injury Facial Injury Bodily Injury Foot Injury Hearing Damage	<p>Personal protective clothing (ear muffs, goggles or face shield, gloves, steel-capped boots, leg protection) <i>MUST BE WORN.</i></p> <p>Equipment must be correctly adjusted.</p> <p>Maintain a safe working distance from other persons.</p> <p>Run blade at full speed before starting a cut.</p> <p>Use thigh and leg muscles to move the saw.</p> <p>Control the direction of fall.</p> <p>Do not touch sawn-off stems.</p>	Goggles/Face shield Overalls/ Leg Protection Steel Capped Safety Boots Gloves Hearing Protection

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Brush Cutter Efficiency	Eye Injury Facial Injury Bodily Injury Foot Injury Hearing Damage	<p>Ensure the right amount of the correct lubricant is in the angle gear.</p> <p>Clean air filter.</p> <p>Ensure the correct fuel mix is used.</p> <p>Perform regular maintenance on equipment.</p> <p>Check and tighten all nuts and bolts before using.</p> <p>Continually check guard/s and nuts and bolts throughout operation and re-tighten if necessary.</p> <p>Use the blade to suit the job.</p> <p>Keep the blades sharp.</p>	Goggles/Face shield Overalls/ Leg Protection Steel Capped Safety Boots Gloves Hearing Protection

<u>1SOP Eye protection</u>	2	3	<u>4SOP Hearing protection</u>	<u>5SOP Hand Protection</u>	<u>6SOP Foot Protection</u>	<u>7SOP Protective Clothing</u>	<u>8SOP Face Protection</u>
							