Safe Operating Procedures

SOP 03 – CHAINSAW Operation

DO NOT use this machine unless appropriately instructed in its safe use and operation and permission to operate has been given.

COMPULSORY PPE

PRE-OPERATIONAL SAFETY CHECKS

1. DO NOT OPERATE THIS CHAINSAW UNLESS YOU HAVE READ THE OPERATOR MANUAL. USE THE CHAINSAW AS RECOMMENDED IN THE OPERATOR MANUAL AT ALL TIMES.
2. Ensure the machine is clean to help identify loose, worn or defective parts and other safety hazards.
3. Inspect fuel lines, tank, and area around carburettor for fuel leaks. Do not use the chainsaw if leaks are found.
4. Check the effectiveness of chain brakes and operating controls.
5. Ensure safety guards and other fitted safety features are secure and functioning.
6. Check condition of the anti-vibration mountings of the handles.
7. Ensure that the chain is sharp and correctly tensioned.
8. Faulty equipment must not be used. Report suspect machinery immediately.
9. DO NOT PROCEED if you have not been trained and Assessed as competent to use a chainsaw. You should be in good physical condition to operate the chainsaw.
10. DO NOT PROCEED to use a Chainsaw to Fell Trees.

OPERATIONAL SAFETY CHECKS

1. Follow all safety precautions in the Manufacturer’s Safety Manual – improper use can cause serious or fatal injury.
2. When starting the chainsaw:
3. Start the chainsaw resting on the ground:
   a. Ensure no obstructions are present particularly near the tip of the guide bar.
   b. Place the right foot through the rear handle and place the left hand on the front handle.
   c. Operate the starter with the right hand.
   d. Keep a firm grip on the chainsaw with both hands, with the thumb of the hand holding the front handle wrapped around the handle.
4. Maintain a proper balance and secure footing when operating the chainsaw.
5. Start the cut with the saw chain rotating at full speed and the spiked bumper in contact with the wood.
6. Be aware of the position of the guide-bar nose at all times when the saw chain is in motion.
7. Pay full attention to the operation and be alert for movement of the material being cut.
8. Be alert to situations that may cause material to pinch the top of the saw chain.

This SOP should be used in conjunction with relevant machinery manuals and manufacturer recommendations.
9. Apply chain brake when the saw is at rest.
10. Avoid the accumulation of debris and keep the chainsaw clean.
11. Never use a chainsaw over or above shoulder height.
12. Allow a hot chainsaw to cool before refilling the fuel tank.

HOUSEKEEPING

1. Remove any foreign material from the motor and guards.
2. Clean entire chainsaw at completion of task.
3. Sharpen saw chain as per manufacturer’s recommendation and as required.
4. Service motor as per manufacturer’s recommendation.
5. Keep the work area and implement shed in a clean and tidy condition.

POTENTIAL HAZARDS

1. Crush injury - Use recommended cutting techniques and stand away from fall zones when operating chainsaw.
2. Cuts and lacerations - Use chain lock when motor running and not cutting. Avoid moving chain and avoid kickback as per operator manual. Wear PPE (Chaps and Gloves) as recommended by the Manufacturer
3. Hearing injury - Use recommended PPE for noise reduction. Ensure chainsaw muffler is in good condition.
4. Flying debris - Use recommended PPE and move bystanders away from operation worksite.
5. Eye injury - Wear eye protection as recommended PPE at all times.
6. Loose clothing, entanglement - Remove jewellery and loose clothing. Wear recommended overalls or Protective Clothing including Chaps and Gloves.

SPECIAL NOTE

NO PERSONNEL ARE TO USE THIS EQUIPMENT PRIOR TO OBTAINING:
• COMPETANCY IN THE CORRECT USE OF THE EQUIPMENT
• READING AND FULLY UNDERSTANDING THE OPERATOR’S MANUAL
• READING THE STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE
• UNDERGOING THOROUGH PRACTICAL TRAINING WHILE PROPERLY SUPERVISED
• SUPERVISOR TO SIGN OFF FOR WHEN EMPLOYEE HAS MET ALL THE CRITERIA LISTED IN THIS SOP

All completed SOPs are to be recorded in TRIM Container A17/2181 utilising a TRIM license in your School/Business Unit. Completed SOPs are to be published on Safety Hub for ongoing utilisation.

Employee Name: ____________________________________________________________

Employee Signature: ___________________________ Date: _______________________

Supervisor Name: ____________________________________________________________

Supervisor Signature: ___________________________ Date: _______________________

This SOP should be used in conjunction with relevant machinery manuals and manufacturer recommendations.