

**BRUSH CUTTER/LINE TRIMMER – PETROL OPERATED**

DO NOT **use this machine unless a teacher has instructed**

**you in its safe use and operation and has given permission.**

    

### **PRE-OPERATIONAL SAFETY CHECKS**

1. **Check unit for loose/missing nuts, bolts and screws. Tighten and/or replace as needed.**
2. **Inspect fuel lines, tank, and area around carburetor for fuel leaks. Do not operate unit if leaks are found.**
3. **Ensure that all guards are fitted, secure and functional.**
4. **Ensure the blade unit has a debris shield, has either a bar handle or a U-handle, and is suspended from a shoulder harness.**
5. **Select the correct cutting tool for the task to be undertaken – refer to manufacturer’s specification.**
6. **Load the nylon line cutting head only with nylon trimmer line of the proper diameter.**
7. **Do not operate if the line cutter is missing.**
8. **Before operating unit, thoroughly inspect blades for damage and cracks.**
9. **When operating the unit with a blade, ensure the blade is attached to the unit as designed, such as with a locknut and cotter pin, and with the teeth pointing in the direction the blade head rotates.**
10. **Faulty equipment must not be used. Report suspect machinery immediately.**

#### OPERATIONAL SAFETY CHECKS

1. **Watch especially for ejected material and ensure that no person or animal is endangered when operating.**
2. **Adjust the handle/s to a position for comfort and good balance.**
3. **When starting, ensure the machine is in a clear area so the line or blade cannot contact the ground or any other obstruction.**
4. **The muffler side of the engine should be away from your body to avoid burns.**
5. **Maintain footing and balance at all times. Do not work on slippery, uneven or unstable surfaces.**
6. **Maintain a straight wrist position. Avoid using your wrist in a bent, extended or twisted position for extended periods.**
7. **Always keep both hands on the control handles. Do not operate one-handed.**
8. **Do not raise the line or blade head above knee height.**
9. **Keep machine clear of fences, wires, posts, rocks, etc. to prevent kick out and cutter head damage.**
10. **Shut down immediately if the unit starts to shake or vibrate.**
11. **After shutting down engine, keep fingers and feet away from cutting line or blade until all rotation stops.**
12. **Disconnect spark plug wire before you work on the unit or leave it unattended.**
13. **Take extreme caution when refuelling to avoid igniting fuel on hot exhaust or engine.**

#### HOUSEKEEPING

1. **Remove any foreign material from engine, cutting tool and guards.**
2. **Keep the work area and implement shed in a clean and tidy condition.**

## POTENTIAL HAZARDS

**◼ The blade can push, pull or kick out ◼ Noise   
◼ Entanglement ◼ Ejected materials**

**This SOP should be used in conjunction with Curriculum Activity Risk Management Modules**

***Acknowledgement****: Much of the information for this document has been sourced from content kindly provided by Department for Education SA website.*

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| **Date of last review** | **\_\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_\_** | **Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** |