

**HANDHELD EDGER – 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. **Check that the cutting attachment is firmly attached and in safe operating condition.**
5. **Check that front handle is adjusted for safe, comfortable operation.**
6. **Faulty equipment must not be used. Report suspect machinery immediately.**

#### OPERATIONAL SAFETY CHECKS

1. **Ensure that no person or animal is endangered when operating the equipment.**
2. **When starting:**
* **Lie the unit on a flat area and keep movable attachment parts clear of all obstacles.**
* **Firmly grasp right hand grip with left hand.**
1. **Before edging, plan your direction of travel so that the unit will always be positioned on your right side and so that you walk on a hard surface whenever possible.**
2. **Do not work on slippery, uneven or unstable surfaces.**
3. **Hold the machine using both hands, with thumbs and fingers firmly encircling the handles.**
4. **Do not adjust blade height with engine running.**
5. **Adjust the blade's depth of cut to produce a fine cut between edging and grass using a minimum blade depth, usually with about 13mm of the blade into the ground.**
6. **When starting to edge, run the engine at full throttle, and lower the blade gently into the ground, being careful not to hit the concrete with the blade.**
7. **Blade depth may have to be adjusted due to differences in height between the hard surface and the top of the grass.**
8. **Do not force the blade. Move as quickly as the blade will allow.**
9. **Shut down immediately if the unit starts to shake or vibrate.**
10. **After shutting down the engine, keep fingers and feet away from the cutting blade until all rotation stops.**
11. **Disconnect spark plug wire before you work on the unit or leave it unattended.**
12. **Allow the unit to cool before refuelling. Exercise extreme care to avoid spilling fuel onto hot motor or exhaust.**

#### HOUSEKEEPING

1. **Clean away any foreign material, debris from in and around the motor, blades and guards.**
2. **Keep the work area and implement shed in a clean and tidy condition**

## POTENTIAL HAZARDS

**◼ Moving components ◼ Ejected material ◼ Vibration**

**◼ Noise ◼ Loose clothing entanglement ◼ Burns from exhaust**

**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 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** |