

**POSTHOLE DIGGER – TRACTOR OPERATED**

**DO NOT use this machine unless a teacher has instructed you in its safe use and operation and has given permission.**

   

### **Never wear loose clothing, jewellery, or have long hair untied while operating a posthole digger.**

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

1. **Before operating an operator must read and understand all of the information in the owner’s manual. If the owner’s manual is unavailable contact the manufacturer or dealer immediately for replacement.**
2. **Ensure all safety guarding for auger adapters, drivelines, input shafts and safety signs are properly installed and in good condition.**
3. **Before operating the digger, check all pins, bolts and connections to ensure all are securely in place.**
4. **Ensure the shear bolts or auger-retaining bolts have not been replaced with ones longer than those supplied and specified by the manufacturer.**
5. **Do not use the digger unless the auger point and cutting edges are intact and in good working order.**
6. **Faulty equipment must not be used. Report suspect machinery immediately.**
7. **Ensure that the Posthole Digger is attached to the tractor according to manufacturer’s specification.**
8. **Know your controls and how to stop tractor, engine, and implement quickly in an emergency.**

#### OPERATIONAL SAFETY CHECKS

1. **Reduce speed when transporting mounted implements to avoid bouncing and momentary loss of steering control.**
2. **Posthole diggers are designed for one-person operation.**
3. **Always dig holes while sitting in the tractor seat.**
4. **Ensure no one else, including bystanders, are near you when you operate the posthole digger.**
5. **Ensure the work area is free from underground cables or pipes.**
6. **Clear area of stones, branches or other debris that might be thrown or entangled.**
7. **Do not operate digger on steep hillsides. When digging on uneven or hilly terrain, position the tractor with the posthole digger uphill.**
8. **Do not let the auger screw itself into the ground. Auger must dig with the dirt breaking up and being carried to the top by the auger flutes.**
9. **Do not shovel dirt away from a rotating auger as the shovel can be caught and thrown by the auger.**
10. **Inspect the entire machine periodically. Look for loose fasteners, worn or broken parts, pinched hydraulic hoses, and leaky or loose fittings.**
11. **Do not attempt to free the auger while the PTO is connected. Disconnect the PTO driveline from the tractor before attempting to free the auger.**
12. **Do not walk or work under a raised digger or attachment unless it is securely blocked or held in position.**
13. **Always stop the PTO, set brake, shut off the tractor engine, remove the tractor key, and allow auger to come to a complete stop before dismounting tractor. Never leave equipment unattended with the tractor running.**

## POTENTIAL HAZARDS

**◼ Rotating parts**

**◼ Entanglement in the driveline or auger**

**◼ Noise**

**◼ Flying debris**

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