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0518 Safety Guidance
HYDRAULIC v:102017

Banner Plant
PART OF HENRY BOOT

Hydraulic Breaker

The rules and procedures in force where people are at work may require the person responsible for this equipment to carry out a specific risk assessment.

It is important to read all of this leaflet BEFORE you use the Hydraulic Breaker

1. Petrol is highly flammable. Take care not to cause a fire or explosion.
2. Plan work and think ahead to ensure work is carried out safely.
3. The hydraulic breaker is designed for breaking concrete, stone, tarmac and similar surfaces.
4. If you have not used a hydraulic breaker before, familiarise yourself with the machine on some straightforward work before commencing on the main task.
5. The following items of personal protective equipment (PPE) are the minimum that is required: goggles – impact resistant; ear muffs or plugs giving protection at the ear for levels up to 80 dB(A); safety boots; gloves.
6. This machine must not be used by minors or by anyone under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
7. The hydraulic breaker is designed for operation by an able bodied adult. Anyone with either temporary or permanent disability must seek expert advice before using it.

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Using the Hydraulic Breaker

1. Wear protective equipment including ear defenders and safety boots.
2. Do not operate the breaker until the tool is on the work surface. Do not operate the breaker if the tool has no load.
3. Watch out for signs that vibration may be affecting hands. If fingers start to tingle or feel numb, take a short break from using the breaker. Exercise fingers to encourage blood circulation.
4. To help prevent vibration affecting hands, operate the machine for shorter periods. Keep hands warm – wearing gloves may help do this.
5. Always start each operation with the breaker at right angles to the work surface to prevent the tool skating across the surface to be broken.
6. Do not use the breaker as a lever to prise open the work area.
7. Do not try to lever free a tool jammed in the work surface. Instead release the tool from the breaker and insert another one. Use this second tool to break up the ground and free the first tool.
8. Keep the hydraulic hoses clear of the work area.
9. Do not stretch the hoses as the work area expands, move the power pack.
10. Do not drag the power pack by pulling on the hoses.
11. If a hose appears to be damaged or is leaking, stop work, stop the engine and release the pressure by moving the flow control lever to minimum and squeezing the trigger on the breaker.
12. On solid concrete areas use a point. Start near the edges and work to a pattern.
13. Stop the engine before leaving the equipment unattended.
14. If the equipment appears to be faulty or does not work properly do not attempt to repair it. Contact the hire company.

Keep this leaflet safe as it may be required for reference at a future date

v:102017

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Before Starting Work...

WORK AREA

1. Do not use this power pack where there is a danger of explosion. It will ignite fumes from petrol or gas cylinders.
2. Using this equipment indoors or in confined spaces could cause **fatal** carbon monoxide poisoning. **Never** use it in domestic premises and only use it in other indoor situations if its suitability and the ventilation required has been **fully** assessed. Mechanical extraction ventilation will almost always be required.
3. Make sure the area is clear and safe and no-one is close-by or could cause distraction.
4. Protect other people from the noise, debris and dust. Warn others to keep away and erect barriers around the work area.
5. The hydraulic breaker may damage pipes of cable buried under the surface.

OPERATORS

1. The following items of personal protective equipment (PPE) are the minimum that should be worn whenever using the hydraulic breaker. Particular jobs or environments may require a higher level of protection.
2. Impact resistant goggles must be worn when working with the hydraulic breaker.
3. This hydraulic breaker is likely cause noise levels up to 80 dB(A) – wear appropriate ear muffs or plugs giving hearing protection at the ear for this level as a minimum.
4. Safety boots must be worn.
5. Anyone who is working close-by will also need to wear appropriate personal protective equipment.

HYDRAULIC BREAKER

1. Check all equipment, including hoses, power pack and the breaker. Do not use anything found to be damaged – contact the hire company.
2. Ensure the hoses have no cuts, abrasions or bulges in them.
3. Check the quick release self-sealing hose couplings are clean before connecting them.
4. Ensure the power pack is sited firmly and safely close to the work area.
5. Check engine oil and fuel levels each day before commencing work. Check levels more often if the breaker is used continuously.
6. The flow control lever should be set to 'max' position while working.
7. In cold weather let the machine warm up before starting work.
8. Always grip the hydraulic breaker correctly with two hands while working.
9. The breaker must only be used in a position below waist height – it is too heavy for any other use.
10. Vibration from using this hydraulic breaker can be hazardous. Warm up hands before starting work and wear gloves to keep hands warm when working.
11. Ensure you understand all of the controls. Before starting the machine, know how to stop it.

ACCESSORIES

1. Switch off the power pack before changing the tool bit.
2. The breaker can only use the tool bits specifically for it. Do not use any other bits.
3. The tool bit shank should be clean and lightly oiled before insertion into the breaker.
4. Do not attempt to uncouple the hydraulic hoses while the system is pressurised. Stop the engine and release the pressure by moving the flow control lever to minimum and squeezing the trigger on the breaker.
5. Do not throw the disconnected hose couplings into the dirt, keep them clean.

REFUELLING

1. **No smoking.**
2. Stop the engine and let it cool down.
3. If possible move the machine away from the work area.
4. Clean the filler cap and the area around it to prevent dirt falling into the fuel tank.
5. Use a funnel and clean petrol when refuelling. Do not spill any fuel on yourself or the machine.
6. Wipe any fuel off the machine. Dispose of fuel soaked cloth carefully.
7. If any fuel is spilt on the ground, wipe it up or cover it with soil.
8. If any fuel is spilt on clothes, change them straight away.
9. Put all fuel caps back on properly and move fuel can to a safe, cool place.

STARTING THE ENGINE

1. Check the engine and machine controls are set correctly and the power pack is on a level surface.
2. Ensure you hold the power pack firmly so it will not move when the starter is pulled.
3. Pull the starter handle slowly until you can feel the starter has engaged with the engine, then pull it quickly and strongly. Don't pull it out too far or it may break.
4. Guide the cord back into place so it recoils correctly.

HYDRAULIC SAFETY

1. Hydraulic oil is dangerous, keep it away from eyes and mouth, and wash it off skin immediately.
2. The hydraulic system has been checked and topped up by the hire company. The hydraulic oil level can be checked by looking at the sight glass. If the oil level is low contact the hire company.
3. Change clothes immediately if hydraulic oil is spilt on them.
4. The hydraulic oil is pressurised to over 1200 psi (80 bar). Do not attempt any repair or adjustment.
5. Do not try to stop a leak by pressing a thumb over it. Hydraulic oil under pressure can penetrate the skin with serious results. It is also very hot. Keep clear of leaks.

Useful Reference Points • www.hae.org.uk/businessguard

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