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Using the Clearing saw

- 1. Put the carrying harness on and adjust it so that it is comfortable but secure, before starting the saw.
2. Wear protective equipment including boots, helmet, face shield or goggles.
3. Once the saw has been started, lift it and attach it to the harness carefully.
4. Make sure no-one is in the area that is to be worked in.
5. Always hold the clearing saw with both hands on the hand grips as well as using the harness.
6. Keep the cutting head at ground level or just above it. Do not rise it above knee level.
7. Use the throttle; make sure the cutting head is running at full speed before starting to cut into the brush.
8. Keep a look out for obstructions, which may be hidden by the brush.
9. Be prepared for the reactive force when the saw contacts the surface to be cut. It is best to cut into shrubs or trees with the left side of the blade; the machine will then pull away from the user.
10. Avoid cutting with the right side of the blade - this is likely to cause the saw to cut out of the cut.
11. Beware of debris and dirt that may be thrown up by the blade.
12. If the clearing saw starts to labour and slow down do not force it so hard. Do not overload the engine. Steady cuts keeping the saw speed up are more effective than aggressive pressure.
13. The blade will continue to rotate for a few seconds after the engine has been stopped. Wait for it to stop completely before lowering the cutting head or putting the saw down.
14. If the operator is approached while using the machine, they must stop work and let the machine idle until clear.
15. Watch out for signs that vibration may be affecting the users' hands. If the users fingers start to tingle or feel numb, they must take a short break from using the clearing saw and exercise the fingers to encourage blood circulation.
16. To help prevent vibration affecting the hands, operate the machine for shorter periods. Keep hands warm - wearing gloves may help to do this.
17. If adjustments area needed to the blade or guard, or to clear debris tangled in the blade, stop the engine and wait until the blade has completely stopped. Wear gloves to prevent cutting hands while clearing the blade or making adjustments.
18. Stop the engine before leaving the machine unattended.
19. If the equipment does not work properly do not attempt to repair it, contact the hire company.

Please keep this leaflet safely as it may be required for future reference



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1. Check the machine, engine, and all equipment including harness. Do not start the engine until you are wearing personal protective clothing.
2. The main control lever has three positions. In normal running it is at the 1 position. Push the control lever forward to the 0 position to stop the saw. The rear position is only used when starting the engine.
3. The clearing saw is designed for thinning brush and cutting small trees up to about 6cm (2.5ins) diameter.
4. The machine must not be used by minors, or by anyone under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
5. The machine is designed for operation by an able bodied adult. Anyone with either temporary or permanent disability must seek expert advice before using it.
6. The following items of personal protective equipment must be available for use; Impact resistant face shield or goggles; EN 166-B or BS2092 grade 1; Ear muffs or plugs giving protection for levels up to 107 dB(A); Safety helmet to EN397 or BS5240; Safety boots to EN345 or BS1870/4972; Gloves
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Clearing Saw

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 this entire leaflet BEFORE using the Clearing Saw

- 1. Petrol mixture is highly flammable. Take care not to cause a fire or explosion.
2. The clearing saw is designed for thinning brush and cutting small trees up to about 6cm (2.5ins) diameter.
3. The saw blade on the cutting head rotates very fast and can cause injury or damage if the machine is not used in a careful and controlled way.
4. If the user has not operated a clearing saw before, they must familiarise themselves with how the machine works before starting the main task
5. Plan ahead to make sure work is carried out safely.
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CLEARING THE SAW

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CONTROLS

- 1. This section describes the controls found on most clearing saws. Check the saw to find the controls before trying to operate it.
2. There may be an interlock control on the throttle trigger to prevent the throttle being squeezed accidentally. The interlock must always be pressed before the throttle can be squeezed.
3. You always need to press any interlock before the throttle can be squeezed.
4. The machine may have a safety helmet needs to be worn (BS5240) when working with this saw to find the controls before trying to operate it.
5. This section describes the controls found on most clearing saws. Check the saw to find the controls before trying to operate it.
6. The equipment is likely to cause noise levels of up to 107dB(A) - wear appropriate ear muffs or plugs giving hearing protection for this as a minimum.
7. A safety helmet needs to be worn (BS5240) when working with this saw to find the controls before trying to operate it.
8. The machine may have a safety helmet needs to be worn (BS5240) when working with this saw to find the controls before trying to operate it.
9. Make sure the operator understands all of the controls before starting the clearing saw. The operator must know how to stop the machine.
10. If the engine is now running, squeeze the control lever to stop the engine. The control lever will revert to its normal position and the engine will idle. Set the control choke to 3.
11. If the engine did not start, set the choke control to 2.
12. Warm up by gently opening the throttle, before starting work.

OPERATORS

- 1. Do not use the clearing saw where there is a danger of explosion. It will ignite fumes from petrol, or gas cylinders.
2. To reduce the risk of serious or fatal injury from breathing toxic fumes, never run the clearing saw indoors or in poorly ventilated locations.
3. Make sure the area is clear and safe and that no-one is near to or could distract the operator.
4. Protect other people from the noise and debris. Warn others to keep away, put up warning signs or barriers around the work area.
5. Before starting, clear the area of stones, wire stout branches and other debris that could fall on the saw blades.
6. Check that there are no hidden electric cables, water pipes, low fences, or other obstructions where the operator is going to be working.
7. Particular jobs or environments may require a higher level of protection.
8. A face shield (EN166B or BS2092 grade 1) must be worn when working with this machine. The saw may throw up stones or debris.
9. The equipment is likely to cause noise levels of up to 107dB(A) - wear appropriate ear muffs or plugs giving hearing protection for this as a minimum.
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