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1640 Safety Guidance
2 MAN v:042017

FTH HIRE GROUP

2 Man Post Hole Auger

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 2 Man Post Hole Auger

1. Petrol mixture is highly flammable. Take care not to cause a fire or explosion.
2. This auger is designed for use by two able bodied adults to drill holes in soil or clay using the appropriate attachments. Do not use it for anything else. Carelessness or misuse could cause a serious or fatal accident.
3. Make sure that there are no hidden electricity cables, gas or water pipes or other obstructions where drilling is going to take place.
4. Plan the work and think ahead to make sure that work will always be carried out safely.
5. The following items of personal protective equipment must be worn as a minimum: ear muffs or plugs giving protection for levels up to 107 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. This machine is designed for operation by two able bodied adults. Anyone with either temporary or permanent disability must seek expert advice before using it.

WORK AREA

1. Do not use this machine 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 auger indoors or in poorly ventilated locations. Ensure that there is proper ventilation when working in trenches or other confined areas.
3. Make sure the area is clear and safe and that no-one is nearby who could cause a distraction.
4. Warn other people to keep away from the working area: put up warning signs or barriers.

(Continued overleaf...)

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Using the Auger

1. Make sure that operators understand who will be giving instructions and what the signals will be.
2. Wear protective equipment including boots and gloves.
3. Plan working positions and the route to be taken around the holes to be dug. Avoid ground where there is building debris such as bricks, wire or timber offcuts.
4. Once the auger has been started, it can be lifted together into position. Operators must have a secure grip and footing before starting work.
5. Always hold the machine securely with both hands on the handgrips and be prepared for any unexpected increase in turning force if the auger meets an obstruction.
6. As soon as the guide tip of the auger has broken the soil surface, use full throttle to continue drilling.
7. Stay alert and always be ready to stop the engine straightaway if the auger start to jam. If this isn't done, the body of the machine will spin around and control may be lost.
8. If the machine starts to labour and slow down do not force it so hard. Lift the machine with the auger turning to allow soil, clay and stones to be freed from the hole. Steady drilling keeping the auger speed up is more effective than aggressive pressure.
9. Extensions should be added only when the auger has penetrated into the ground as far as it can.
10. Release the auger and lift the machine clear. Locate an extension onto the auger spindle and lock it into place. Now locate the borer on to the top of the extension and lock it into place.
11. If it appears that the auger is becoming blunt, do not force the machine. Contact the hire company to reset the cutting edge.
12. If the auger jams, stop the engine straightaway. Set the gear lock and turn the entire machine anti-clockwise to screw the auger out of the ground. Disengage the gear lock as soon as the auger is free.
13. When moving on to the next hole, carry the machine between both operators, with the engine idling.
14. Take care not to trip on the soil from the recently dug hole or other obstacles.
15. Watch out for signs that vibration from the work may be affecting hands. If fingers start to tingle or feel numb, take a short break from cutting work. Exercise 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 do this.
17. If someone approaches, stop work and let the machine idle until they are clear.
18. Stop the engine to make any adjustments or clear debris tangled in the auger.
19. Stop the engine if leaving the machine unattended.
20. If the auger 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

Before Starting Work...

WORK AREA (*...continued*)

5. Check that there are no hidden electric cables, gas or water pipes, or underground obstructions where the work is going to be carried out.
6. If the holes are to be left open for more than a very short while, they should either be covered with substantial boarding or use some similar method of preventing anyone stepping into a hole.

OPERATORS

1. This machine can only be operated by two able bodied adults working together. It should be agreed beforehand which person will give instructions and control the work.
2. Both operators will have both hands on the auger, and the noise will make spoken communication difficult. Agree before starting work how signals will be given, and what the pattern of work will be.
3. The following items of personal protective equipment (ppe) are the minimum which should be worn by both persons when using this machine. Particular jobs or environments may require a higher level of protection.
4. This equipment is likely to cause noise levels up to 107 dB(A) – wear appropriate ear muffs or plugs giving hearing protection for this level.
5. Gloves should be worn to protect hands while working with the machine, especially when handling the auger.
6. Safety boots must be worn when working with this machine.
7. Make sure that there is no loose or flapping clothing that could get caught in the auger.
8. Anyone who is working nearby will also need to wear appropriate personal protective equipment.
9. Vibration from working with this machine for long periods can be hazardous. Warm hands up before starting work, and wear gloves to keep hands warm while working.

POST HOLE AUGER

1. Check the machine, including the fuel tank, handles, and auger. If anything is found damaged, do not use the auger - contact the hire company.
2. Fold the handles out from their transport position. Make sure that the throttle cable is not twisted or trapped, and lock the handles securely into place.
3. Fit the appropriate auger for the holes you want to drill. Only use the correct augers as supplied by the hire company. Make sure that the auger is locked securely in place.
4. Prolonged use of the auger may blunt the cutting edge. If it appears that this may have happened, contact the hire company to reset the cutting edge.
5. Make sure that all of the controls are understood. Before starting the machine, it must be known how to stop it.

REFUELLING

1. No smoking.
2. Use a fresh mixture of two stroke engine oil with petrol. If the hire company have given special instructions on how much oil to use, follow them. Otherwise, use 1 measure of two stroke oil to 25 measures of petrol (40 ml per litre).
3. Stop the engine and let it cool down.
4. If possible move the machine away from the work area.
5. Clean the filler cap and the area around it to prevent dirt falling into the fuel tank.
6. Shake the fuel can to mix the petrol and oil.
7. Use a funnel when refuelling. Do not spill any fuel on people or the machine.
8. Wipe any fuel off the machine. Dispose of fuel soaked cloth carefully.
9. If any fuel is spilled on the ground, wipe it up or cover it with soil.
10. If any fuel is spilled on clothes, they must be changed straight away.
11. Put all fuel caps back on properly, and move the fuel can to a safe, cool place.

CONTROLS

1. This section describes the controls found on most augers. Check the machine to find the controls before trying to start it.
2. The throttle lever is on the handlebar, positioned for operation with the right hand. There is also a part-throttle interlock, which will hold the throttle partly open for starting. This may be on the motor housing, or by the throttle lever.
3. The main control lever has two positions. Under normal running, it is at the position marked START or RUN. Push the control lever forward to the position marked STOP to stop the auger.
4. The machine may have a decompression valve. This is only used when starting the auger – it needs to be pressed before each fresh attempt to start the engine.
5. The choke, control should only be used when first attempting to start an engine from cold.
6. There will be a gear lock on the gearbox. Only use this when freeing a jammed auger. At all other times it should be unlocked.

STARTING

1. This section describes the starting procedure for most augers. If the hire company has given special instructions, follow them. Otherwise, follow the instructions given below.
2. Lay the machine on the ground, resting on the handles and the tip of the auger, with the engine controls and throttle lever on the top. Make sure that the auger is only resting lightly on the ground and is free to turn.
3. Check that the gear lock is off.
4. Move the control lever to the start position.
5. If the engine is warm, check that the choke control is in the open position. If the engine has run but is still cold, the choke control should also be in the open position. Only set the choke lever to the closed position if the engine has not yet run at all.
6. If the auger has a decompression valve, set it. It needs to be set each time a fresh attempt is made to start the engine.
7. Move the throttle lever to about half throttle position and use the interlock to hold it open.
8. Hold the machine down firmly with the right hand. Do not stand or kneel on the handles or engine housing.
9. Be prepared for the auger turning when the engine starts.
10. With the left hand, pull out the starter handle slowly until the starter has engaged with the engine, then pull it quickly and strongly. Don't pull it too far, or it may break.
11. Guide the cord back so that it recoils correctly.
12. If the engine is now running, briefly open the throttle - it will revert to its normal position and the engine will idle. Set the choke control to the open position.
13. If the engine did not start, set the choke control to the open position, set any decompression valve, and pull the starter cord again.
14. In cold weather, you may need to let the engine warm up by gently opening the throttle, before starting work.

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

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