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HYDRAULIC BREAKERS - (Petrol)

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS & WARNINGS

It is in the interests of those operating this equipment, and for the safety of others, that these **SAFETY PRECAUTIONS & WARNINGS** are carefully read and understood before operating this equipment.

PURPOSE

1. This equipment is designed for breaking-up brick, concrete, stone and asphalt structures and similar surfaces using the appropriate tools

PERSONAL SAFETY

2. This equipment is designed for operation by an able bodied adult. Anyone with either temporary or permanent disability must seek expert advice before using it. It must not be operated by minors, or by anyone under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
3. If the equipment is not used in a safe, careful and controlled way, personal injury or injury to others may result.
4. Before attempting to operate this equipment you must familiarise yourself with the equipment, its controls and operating characteristics.
5. This equipment employs the use of petrol, which can cause fire and explosion if not handled in a safe manner.
6. Before starting your work, think and plan ahead to ensure you, and others around you, will be working in a safe environment.
7. Vibration from this equipment may be at a level that could be hazardous to the user, if operated for extended periods. Always wear gloves and ensure hands are warm before starting work and they remain warm and dry. Do not grasp the equipment too tightly, only sufficient to safely control the machine. If you experience tingling, numbness or loss of strength in the fingers – stop working immediately. Take frequent breaks and exercise the hands and arms to minimise risks.
8. When using this equipment, it is recommended that the following items of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) be worn:
 - **Ear defenders providing protection up to 110dB(A).**
 - **Safety boots to EN345 or BS1870/4972.**
 - **Impact resistant goggles to EN166-B or BS2092, grade 1 protection.**
 - **Appropriate industrial gloves.**

NOTE: Other types of work, or environment, may require a higher level of PPE.

HYDRAULIC SAFETY

9. Hydraulic oil pressure in this equipment can reach pressures of up to 1200psi (8bar) and is therefore hazardous if it comes into contact with the skin or eyes. Wash affected areas immediately with clean water.
10. Never attempt to stop an oil leak using fingers or hands. Switch-off the equipment and contact the hire company.
11. Change any clothes that become contaminated with hydraulic oil.
12. Always keep hose couplings free from dust and dirt.

OPERATING AREA SAFETY

WARNING: If used indoors or in confined spaces this equipment could cause fatal carbon monoxide poisoning. **Never** use it in domestic premises and if used in other indoor situations you **must** ensure you first assess its suitability and the ventilation required for safe use. Mechanical extraction ventilation will be required in almost every case.

13. Before commencing work, ensure that the area you are to operate the equipment in is a safe environment. Erect safety barriers and warning signs as necessary.
14. Make sure that the work area is clear of obstructions and hazards (projections, cables, pipes, etc.).
15. Do not attempt to operate this equipment in confined or enclosed spaces without adequate ventilation due to the risk of inhaling toxic exhaust fumes, which can prove fatal. **See warning above.**
16. Before commencing work, warn others who may be working in the vicinity of the equipment, to keep clear. If possible place safety barriers around your work area.
17. Anybody who is working near to you will also need to wear the appropriate PPE.
18. Protect others from noise, dust and debris.
19. Do not use this equipment where there is a danger of igniting fumes from petrol, or gas cylinders.

BEFORE OPERATING THE EQUIPMENT

SAFETY CHECKS

20. Visually inspect the equipment and all its accessories (machine, power pack, hoses, tool bits, safety barriers, etc.) for serviceability (completeness, signs of damage, undue wear, etc.). Do not use the equipment if found damaged or worn - contact the hire company immediately.
21. Before attempting to operate the equipment, familiarise yourself with the equipments controls. Make sure you understand their purpose and function.
22. Before commencing work, check for hidden electrical cables and pipe work.
23. Before you start the equipment, you must know how to **STOP** it in an emergency.

OPERATING THE EQUIPMENT

USING THE EQUIPMENT

24. The equipment must be sited on firm and level ground.
25. Check fuel and oil levels; top-up as necessary.
26. Select the correct type of tool bit for the work being undertaken.
27. Ensure the shank of the tool bit is lightly oiled before insertion into the machine.
28. Ensure hoses are free from cuts, bulges etc. Ensure hose connections are clean before there're connected.
29. The equipment must always point down and contacting the surface before switching-on.

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30. The flow control lever must be set at '**MAX**' position when working.
31. In cold weather, allow the equipment to 'warm-up' before commencing work.
32. Always use both hands to hold and control the breaker.
33. This equipment must only be used on work below waist height.
34. Keep hoses clear of the tool bit and do not stretch hoses to gain access to work areas.
35. Before switching-on, the equipment must be at right angles to the surface being worked on to help prevent the tool bit sliding on the work surface.
36. The tool bit will remain stationary whilst the engine is idling and only move when the throttle handle is operated.
37. Be aware of the reactive forces when the tool bit first contacts the work piece.
38. Ensure you have a firm footing before commencing work. Keep the work area clear of rubble, clear at regular intervals.
39. Breaking brick, concrete, masonry and asphalt may create large amounts of dust and debris; cover items and surfaces that may be come affected.
40. Do not allow the machine to labour, reduce the pressure on the equipment.
41. If breaking through a wall, protect the area and others on the other side of the wall from falling debris.
42. Do not use the equipment as a lever to prise the work surface open.
43. Should the tool bit becomes 'jammed' in the work surface, stop the equipment and release the jammed tool bit from the machine and replace it with another one. Now use the equipment to break the surrounding surface of the jammed tool bit to retrieve it.
44. Do not attempt to un-couple hoses whilst the system is pressurized.
45. Always allow the equipment to stop working before placing the equipment on the ground.
46. Stop working and switch-off the machine if someone approaches you.
47. Stop the equipment and un-plug it before moving it or making any adjustments or changing the tool bits.

STARTING THE EQUIPMENT WHEN 'COLD'

NOTE: Below is a brief description of STARTING procedure for the majority of breakers. If the hire company has provided dedicated instructions for your type of machine – follow them.

48. Correctly set the engines controls. The choke must be partially '**OUT**' and the part throttle lock '**ENGAGED**'.
49. Place the equipment on the ground with the tool bit clear of any obstructions.
50. Hold the equipment firmly with the left hand, with the right hand take-up the slack of the starter handle cord until you feel the starter has engaged with the engine. Now pull firmly on the starting handle. Once the engine has started, allow the starter cord to retract under control.
51. Once the engine has started, squeeze and release the part throttle setting and turn the choke '**OFF**' once the engine is running smoothly.

STARTING THE EQUIPMENT WHEN 'HOT'

52. Adopt the same procedures as for '**COLD**' start without engaging the choke or part throttle control setting.

REFUELLING

53. Refuel with petrol only.
54. The engine must not be running whilst refuelling. Warm engines must be allowed to cool down first.
55. Do not smoke whilst refuelling. Move equipment away from work area before re-fuelling.
56. Clean the area around the fuel filler cap before removing it.
57. Using a clean funnel, pour petrol into the fuel tank. Care must be taken not to overflow or spill. Fuel spilt on the engine must be wiped dry, that spilt on the ground must be removed and the area covered with sand or earth. Fuel soaked clothes must be removed.
58. Replace the fuel cap securely.

SECURITY AND MAINTENANCE

59. Visually check the condition of the equipment at the start of each day.
60. If the equipment operates erratically, or incorrectly, do not use and do not attempt to repair it. Inform the hire company.
61. Periodically clean the equipment to ensure it is free from dust, dirt and other debris.
62. When the equipment is left unattended for long periods (i.e. overnight), ensure it is made secure to prevent unauthorised use or loss.

COLLECTION & PICK-UP

63. For safety reasons this equipment requires you to use a **VAN** or an **ESTATE**.

