

# Safe Operating Procedure

## Post Hole Digger – Tractor Operated



### PERSONAL SAFETY



### PRE OPERATIONAL SAFETY CHECKS

- Before commencing 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;
- Ensure all safety guarding for auger adapters, drivelines, input shafts and safety signs are properly installed and in good condition;
- Before operating the digger, check all pins, bolts and connections to ensure all are securely in place;
- Ensure the shear bolts or auger-retaining bolts have not been replaced with ones longer than those supplied and specified by the manufacturer;
- Do not use the digger unless the auger point and cutting edges are intact and in good working order;
- Faulty equipment must not be used. Report suspect machinery immediately;
- Ensure that the Posthole Digger is attached to the tractor according to manufacturer's specification;
- Know your controls and how to stop tractor, engine, and implement quickly in an emergency.

### POTENTIAL HAZARDS

- Rotating parts;
- Entanglement in the driveline or auger;
- Noise;
- Flying debris.

### OPERATIONAL SAFETY PRACTICES (CONTROLS)

- Reduce speed when transporting mounted implements to avoid bouncing and momentary loss of steering control;
- Posthole Diggers are designed for one-person operation;
- Always dig holes while sitting in the tractor seat;
- **Ensure no one else, including bystanders, are near you when you operate the Posthole Digger;**
- Ensure the work area is free from underground cables or pipes;
- Clear area of stones, branches or other debris that might be thrown or entangled;
- Do not operate digger on steep hillsides. When digging on uneven or hilly terrain, position the tractor with the Posthole Digger uphill;
- 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;

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- Do not shovel dirt away from a rotating auger as the shovel can be caught and thrown by the auger;
- Inspect the entire machine periodically. Look for loose fasteners, worn or broken parts, pinched hydraulic hoses, and leaky or loose fittings;
- 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;
- Do not walk or work under a raised digger or attachment unless it is securely blocked or held in position;
- 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.

### HOUSEKEEPING

- Clean away any dirt and debris from in and around digger and attachments parts.