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1613 Safety Guidance

PUSH 4 STROKE PETROL v:012017

SOUTH WEST HIRE & SALES

Push Mower

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 Push Mower

1. Petrol is highly flammable. Take care not to cause a fire or explosion.
2. This push mower is designed for cutting medium sized lawns. It should not be used on wet, thick or overgrown grass or on steep slopes.
3. The action of this mower can cause injury or damage if the machine is not used in a careful and controlled way.
4. Keep your hands and feet well away from the cutting blades.
5. If you have not used an engine powered mower before, practice in a spacious and level area until you are confident you can use the mower correctly.
6. You must have at least the following items of personal protective equipment: ear muffs or plugs giving protection for levels up to 96 dB(A); strong boots or shoes giving good foot protection; strong gloves for handling any rubbish in the grass.
7. This machine must not be used by minors, or by anyone under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
8. This push mower 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 Mower

1. Wear your protective equipment, including ear defenders and strong footwear.
2. Make sure the bag or box that catches the clippings is fitted correctly.
3. Always hold the mower handle firmly with both hands while working.
4. Keep your hands and feet clear of the blades at all times.
5. Do not run the engine and blades when moving over paving or hard ground, or when first positioning the mower to start work.
6. Do not tilt the mower to expose the blades when they are still rotating. You might accidentally put your foot into the danger area or the blades may throw out stones and other debris.
7. While working, keep a lookout for any stones or other objects in your path. Stop and clear them out of the way.
8. If the mower starts to labour and slow down, raise the cutting height so you are removing less material. Make a second pass later, with a deeper setting.
9. Stop the engine every time you empty the grassbox.
10. Stop the engine and disconnect the spark plug lead before making any adjustments, other than height of cut.
11. Stop the engine before leaving the machine unattended.
12. If debris or rubbish gets tangles in the blades, stop the engine and disconnect the spark plug lead before clearing the blockage or working on the mower.
13. Clean the machine at the end of each day, and before you return it to the hire company. Make sure that there are no grass cutting near the exhaust. Wear your gloves – the exhaust will be hot.
14. Let the exhaust and engine cool down before you put it into store.
15. If your 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

v:012017

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Before Starting Work...

WORK AREA

1. Do not use this push mower 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, do not run the mower indoors unless you have good ventilation when working in other confined areas.
3. Protect other people from the noise and from injury. Keep people off the grassed area.
4. Do not use this mower on steep slopes. Contact the hire company if you need a machine to do this.
5. Make sure the area you are about to cut is free of large stones, pieces of wood, lengths or wire, or anything else that may fly out or damage your machine. Wear your gloves to do this.

OPERATORS

1. The following items of personal protective equipment (ppe) are the minimum that should be worn whenever you use this mower. Particular jobs or environments may require a higher level of protection.
2. This equipment is likely to cause noise levels up to 96 dB(A) – wear appropriate ear muffs or plugs giving hearing protection for this level as a minimum.
3. You must wear strong boots or shoes giving good foot protection.
4. You will need strong gloves to handle any rubbish or debris in the grass.
5. Anybody who is working near to you will also need to wear appropriate personal protective equipment.

PUSH MOWER

1. Check your mower completely, including engine, controls, guards and grass box. If anything is found damaged, do not use the push mower – contact the hire company.
2. Make sure the guard over the grass outlet is securely fixed to eh mower, but fee to move when attaching and removing the grassbox.
3. If you plan to cut long grass, set the cut high to start with. This will avoid damaging the grass and overloading the mower. You can then go back over the grass with a lower cut setting.
4. Make sure you understand all of the controls. Before you start the mower, you must know how to control and stop it.

REFUELLING

1. No smoking.
2. Stop the engine and let it cool down.
3. Move the machine away from your work area. Remember that split petrol will kill grass.
4. Clean the filler cap and the area around it to prevent dirt falling into the fuel tank.
5. Use a funnel 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 you spill any fuel on the ground, wipe it up or cover it with soil.
8. If you spill any fuel on your clothes, change them straight away.
9. Put all fuel caps back on properly, and move your fuel can to a safe, cool place.

STARTING

1. This section describes the starting procedure for most push mowers. Some lawnmowers have a blade brake that needs to be held in during starting and use. Larger lawnmowers may have an electric starter motor. If the hire company has given you special instructions for your mower, follow them. Otherwise, follow the instructions given below.
2. Check that there is no obstruction, including long grass, under the mower.
3. Open the fuel valve by the fuel tan. Your mower may also have a primer valve you have to push several times.
4. Check that the throttle lever is in the START position.
5. Hold the machine firmly with your left hand, so that it will not move when you pull the starting cord.
6. With your right hand, pull out the starting cord handle slowly until you can feel that the starter has engaged with the engine, then pull it quickly and strongly. Don't pull it too far, or the cord may break.
7. Guide the cord back into place so that it recoils correctly.
8. If the engine did not start, check that there is sufficient petrol, and that the throttle lever is in the correct position. Pull the starting cord again.
9. 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