TOOLBOX TALK

21. BRUSHCUTTERS & STRIMMERS

What?

- **A brushcutter is a powered garden or agricultural cutting tool.**
- **It has a power unit held close to the body, a pole through which the power is transmitted and a rotary cutting head.**
- **It is hooked onto a harness that the operator wears.**
- **Various blades or trimmer heads can be attached to the machine for specific applications e.g. a strimmer head with a nylon line for cutting grass.**

Why?

- Brushcutters are used to trim weeds, scrub, small trees, and other foliage not accessible by a mower, for example along banks and slopes.
- The brushcutter can only be used by those trained to do so
- Safe handling of the machine should be employed when moving it to and from the minibus.
- The machine should be clamped in place to prevent movement during transport.

Do ✔

- ☑ Check the site for any dangers
- ☑ Read the relevant RAMS & Brushcutter Induction
- ☑ Undertake the relevant safety checks before starting the engine
- ☑ Use a 'Spotter', a person to check for danger. Stay clear of the machine if you are not operating it (minimum of 15m)
- ☑ Stand well in front and to the side of the machine if you need to attract the operator's attention, and wave your arms
- ☑ Ensure that the blades are cleaned using a wire brush to remove as much dirt, mud and vegetation as possible after use
- ☑ Store the machine away safely after use

Don't ✗

- ☒ Don't operate the brushcutter without wearing the correct PPE:
    - Ear defenders (should also be worn by people working close by the machine)
    - Steel toe capped boots
    - Body harness
- ☒ Don't let anyone come up behind the operator whilst the machine is on or walk in front of the machine
- ☒ Don't leave the machine running without an operator
- ☒ Don't operate the brushcutter if you are feeling tired or too hot; take regular breaks and stay hydrated

Document Name	TBT Brushcutter & Strimmer	Document No.	OC/HS/TBT 21
Document Owner	David Shaftoe	Date of Issue	07.06.20
Related TBTs	Fatigue; Hearing Protection; Machinery; Manual Handling; Petroleum Products; PPE	Version No.	1