

Talk Led By: _____

Date: _____

Site/Location: _____

Time: _____

Weather Report/Conditions:

_____ High: _____ °C Wind Speed: _____ km/hr
_____ Low: _____ °C Wind Gusts: _____ km/hr

Working Safely With Tractor Operated Post Hole Diggers

Post hole diggers that are mounted on tractors and powered by the PTO save a lot of time and labour, but unless they are maintained and used properly, they can be extremely dangerous pieces of machinery. The potential hazards of post hole diggers include rotating parts, loose hair or clothing becoming caught, loud noise and even flying debris.

Inspection and Maintenance

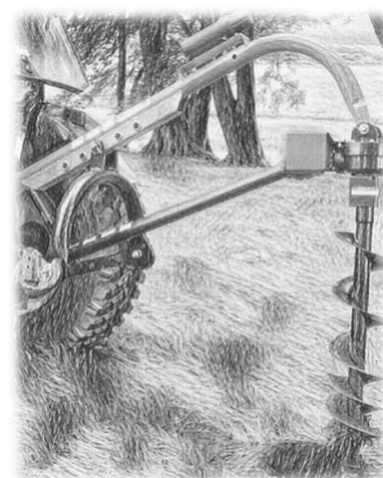
- Keep the cutting blade sharp, intact and in good working condition.
- Grease regularly and in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- Ensure pins, bolts, connections, guards and shields are in place, in good condition and secure.
- Check for fluid leaks and cracked or weathered hydraulic hoses.
- If the post hole digger has a shear bolt that attaches the auger to the gearhead, ensure the bolt is the correct type and size; the wrong type of bolt may damage parts and result in the auger coming loose and longer bolts may increase the risk of entanglement.

What You Should Do

- Ensure operators are not only trained and aware of the hazards but have also read and understood the operator's manual. It is important to be familiar with the proper horsepower and rpm required for operation.
- Use the right tractor for the task (i.e., properly weighted).
- Retrofit older units with appropriate guards and shields.
- Use the equipment as it is intended by the manufacturer. Post hole diggers are designed for single person operation and holes are meant to be dug while the operator is sitting in the tractor seat.
- Aside from the operator, no one should be within 20 feet of the post hole digger; this will help ensure that no one will get too close and become entangled in it.
- Ensure the tractor is disengaged and turned off before making repairs or any adjustments.
- Ensure the work area is free of underground cables, powerlines and pipes.
- Ensure that during operation, the dirt is being broken up and carried to the top (if this is not happening the digger may become screwed into the ground).

What You Should Not Do

- Wear loose clothing, wear jewelry, leave long hair unsecured or have untied or loose bootlaces while digging post holes.
- Shovel dirt away from a rotating auger or stick anything near a rotating auger.
- Remove, modify or disable safety features (i.e., guards or shields).
- Operate on steep slopes.
- Attempt to free an auger without disconnecting the PTO driveline first.
- Work under a raised digger unless it is securely blocked and held in position.



Additional Topics/Discussion:

Might include task/job details, hazards and hazard controls, worksite specific emergency response, etc.

Attendance:

Print Name	Position/Trade/Company	Sign Name
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		