

Safety Precautions

WARNING

THE FOLLOWING SAFETY PRECAUTIONS PROVIDE SOME COMMON SENSE GUIDES TO PROMOTE SAFETY AND EFFICIENCY WITH THE 300 SERIES HOLE DIGGERS. NO WARRANTY, GUARANTEE OR REPRESENTATION IS MADE BY THE MANUFACTURER AS TO THE ABSOLUTE CORRECTNESS OR SUFFICIENCY OF ANY INFORMATION OR STATEMENT. THESE SAFETY PRECAUTIONS ARE INTENDED TO DEAL PRINCIPALLY WITH COMMON PRACTICES AND CONDITIONS ENCOUNTERED IN THE USE OF THE HOLE DIGGER AND ARE NOT INTENDED TO BE ALL INCLUSIVE. PROPER LEVELS OF OPERATOR EXPERIENCE, SKILL AND COMMON SENSE ARE ESSENTIAL FOR SAFE AND EFFICIENT OPERATION.

DANGER

THE ENGINE EXHAUST FROM THIS PRODUCT CONTAINS CHEMICALS KNOWN TO THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA TO CAUSE CANCER, BIRTH DEFECTS OR OTHER REPRODUCTIVE HARM. THIS STATEMENT IS MADE IN COMPLIANCE TO CALIFORNIA PROPOSITION 65.

WARNING

INCORRECT USE OF THE HOLE DIGGER CAN RESULT IN PROPERTY DAMAGE, PERSONAL INJURY OR EVEN DEATH. TO REDUCE THIS POSSIBILITY, GIVE COMPLETE AND UNDIVIDED ATTENTION TO THE JOB AT HAND AND FOLLOW THESE SAFETY PRECAUTIONS:

PREPARATION.

1) The 300 Series Hole Diggers are a specialized type of powered equipment, designed for a specific job function and requires adequate and thorough instruction BEFORE it is operated. The size, power, complexity and operating characteristics of this type of powered equipment would dictate that each operator must receive adequate, professional instruction regarding the proper operation of this Hole Digger before being allowed to utilize it. BEFORE attempting to utilize this Hole Digger, read this Operator's Manual, the applicable Safety and Operational Information Video

Tape and the material supplied by the engine manufacturer to familiarize each operator with its correct operating procedures. Avoid the urge not to take the necessary time to read this Operator's Manual before operating the Hole Digger. DO NOT OPERATE THE HOLE DIGGER UNTIL EACH OPERATOR COMPLETELY COMPREHENDS THE CONTENTS OF THIS MANUAL, THE APPLICABLE SAFETY AND OPERATIONAL INFORMATION VIDEO TAPE, APPLICABLE SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND THE INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY THE ENGINE MANUFACTURER.

2) Develop a comprehensive program for the safe operation of the Hole Digger by its owner(s) and/or operator(s). Such a program will include, but is not limited to: instructional requirements for operation, applicable OSHA requirements, local laws and regulations, job site safety and a Hole Digger maintenance program. Constantly examine and upgrade this program to guarantee owner(s) and/or operator(s) safety. Each operator must be fully instructed regarding the specifics of this safety program.

3) Determine that the Hole Digger is in its original, factory configuration and has not been modified in any manner. Many modifications can result in potentially dangerous configurations that can lead to property damage and/or personal injury. If there are any questions about possible modifications made to the Hole Digger, contact the Customer Service Department for specific information BEFORE utilization. There is no charge for this service.

4) Minors should never be allowed to operate the Hole Digger. Bystanders, especially children and animals, should not be allowed in the area where the Hole Digger is in use. The hole digging process can result in flying particles being emitted at high velocity and striking the operator and/or onlookers. This can lead to the possibility of property damage and/or personal injury. Keep all body parts, loose clothing, foreign objects and onlookers clear of the rotating auger and/or auger extensions.

5) Operators must be in proper physical condition, mental health and not under the influence of any substance (drugs, alcohol, etc.) which might impair vision, dexterity or judgment. Working with the Hole Digger is strenuous. If you have any condition that might be aggravated by strenuous work, check with your doctor BEFORE operating the Hole Digger. Guard against the possibility of back related injuries. Always lift the Hole Digger with leg muscles and not with the back. Operators must be of adequate height so that for any given operating configuration, the operator handle(s)



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remain below their shoulder sockets. Do not operate the Hole Digger if this condition is not satisfied. The 300 Series Hole Diggers require that both operators be of similar height, weight and strength to maximize digging efficiency and minimize the possibility of personal injury. Both operators share the burden associated with the hole digging process.

6) Prolonged use of the Hole Digger (or other, similar machines) exposes the operator to vibrations which may produce Whitefinger Disease (Raynaud's Phenomenon). This phenomenon reduces the hand's ability to feel and regulate temperature, produces numbness and burning sensations and may cause nerve and circulation damage and tissue necrosis. Antivibration systems do not guarantee that you will not sustain Whitefinger Disease. Therefore, continuous and regular users should closely monitor the condition of their hands and fingers. After each period of use, exercise to restore normal blood circulation. If any of the symptoms appear, seek medical advice immediately.

7) Clothing must be sturdy and snug fitting, but allow complete freedom of movement. Never wear loose fitting jackets, scarves, neckties, jewelry, flared or cuffed pants or anything that could become caught on controls or moving parts. Wear long pants to protect your legs. Protect your hands with heavy duty, nonslip gloves to improve your grip. Good footing is most important when operating the Hole Digger. Wear sturdy boots with nonslip soles. Steel-toed safety shoes are highly recommended. Keep shoes properly laced. Never wear tennis shoes or other, similar type shoes which afford little or no protection. Wear an approved safety hard hat to protect the operator(s)' head(s) where there is a danger of head injuries.

8) Noise, generated by the engine of the Hole Digger and the actual process itself, can damage your hearing. The 300 Series Hole Digger operates with a noise emission greater than 70dBA. Hearing protection is required while operating or when near operating equipment. Continuous and regular operators should have their hearing checked regularly.

9) Flying debris, generated by the hole digging process, can cause eye injury. Eye protection is required while operating or when near operating equipment.

10) Visually inspect the Hole Digger, auger(s), auger extension(s), and accessories for damaged or worn parts. Inspect each auger for the proper screw bit and teeth. Look for loose and/or damaged handle grips. Check for loose and/or broken parts. Determine that operator controls work freely, all safety devices are

operative and information/safety decals are readable. Check to determine that the Hole Digger and all related accessories are in good mechanical condition BEFORE utilization.

11) Contact appropriate representatives to determine if/where electrical cables, gas lines and other hazardous items are buried under the work surface BEFORE utilization. Some Hole Diggers feature operator handles constructed of a non metallic, composite material. Use of this material does not guarantee the operators will be properly insulated from contact with charged electrical cables. The Hole Digger and related accessories are not classified as being insulated. Contact with buried electrical cables, gas lines and other hazardous items can result in electrocution and/or an explosion.

12) Know how the controls operate. Know how to stop the engine quickly in an emergency. Always start the engine according to the instructions as outlined in this manual to minimize the possibility of unexpected or uncontrolled auger rotation. Unexpected auger rotation can cause loss of machine control, and the possibility of property damage and/or personal injury.

13) Never exceed the recommended capacities of the Hole Digger. Refer to the **Specifications** section of this manual for more detailed information. Always utilize the correct auger and auger extension series designed for use with the Hole Digger. Some Hole Diggers can utilize specially designed augers intended for drilling holes through ice. Such an auger will find limited success when utilized to dig earth. Use of an incorrect auger or auger series can result in property damage and/or personal injury.

14) Do not operate the Hole Digger on a jobsite location where kickback forces generated during the hole digging process can allow body parts to come in direct contact with a vertical wall, foundation or other support type structures in close proximity. Such an occurrence can result in property damage and/or personal injury. Always maintain a safe and reasonable distance from these types of structures.

15) Breathing Carbon Monoxide fumes while operating the Hole Digger can result in property damage and/or personal injury. The normal operation of the Hole Digger is outdoors where the potential effects of Carbon Monoxide to the operators are minimized. If the Hole Digger is operated in a closed area (indoors or outdoors), determine if supplemental ventilation is required to minimize the potential effects of Carbon Monoxide to the operators. Follow all current OSHA regulations pertaining to ventilation.



OPERATION.

1) Give complete and undivided attention to the job at hand. Do not chew gum, smoke and/or use smokeless tobacco while utilizing the Hole Digger. Do not attempt to eat and/or drink while utilizing the Hole Digger. Determine that eyeglasses, hearing aid devices and other medical related devices are properly secured. Keep shoes properly laced. Use of the Hole Digger is strenuous and causes fatigue. Help prevent the cause of an accident. Plan to take work breaks as required to help maintain proper mental and physical alertness.

2) The 300 Series Hole Diggers are not sealed or insulated. Do not operate any Hole Digger in an explosive atmosphere or near combustible materials. Refer to current OSHA rules and regulations.

3) Gasoline is an extremely flammable fuel. Use extreme caution when handling gasoline or mixing fuel. Always utilize UL®, CSA® OR CE approved containers for the storage and transportation of fuel. Do not smoke or bring fire or flame near the fuel. Always shut off the engine and allow it to cool before refueling. Never remove the fuel tank filler cap while the engine is running. Never operate an engine without a fuel tank filler cap. Select bare ground for fueling and move at least 10 feet from the fueling spot before starting the engine. Wipe off any spilled fuel before starting the engine and check for leakage. If a fuel or oil leak is found, do not start or run the engine until the leak is fixed and the spillage has been wiped away. Take care not to get fuel or oil on your clothing. If this happens, change your clothing immediately. Before operating the Hole Digger refer to the **Specifications** section of this manual for more detailed information regarding fuel and lubrication requirements.

4) The 300 Series Hole Diggers are designed for use by two operators. Use of the Hole Digger by one or more than two operators can lead to confusion and loss of control, resulting in property damage and/or personal injury. Never operate the Hole Digger with an improper number of operators. Such a configuration can result in property damage and/or personal injury. If it is felt that more than two persons are required to furnish additional "down pressure" to the auger, STOP and contact the Customer Service Department for specific operational and service/maintenance information. There is no charge for this service.

5) Do not operate the Hole Digger with onlookers close by. Caution all onlookers to stand clear. The hole digging process can result in flying particles being

emitted at high velocity and striking the operator and/or onlookers. This can lead to the possibility of property damage and/or personal injury. Wear proper safety eyewear. Keep all body parts, loose clothing and foreign objects clear of the rotating auger.

6) Do not utilize a shovel and/or foreign object to remove loose soil from around the hole area while the Hole Digger is in use. Such a practice can result in the shovel and/or foreign object to become entrapped by the rotating auger, leading to property damage and/or personal injury.

7) Start the engine according to the instructions as outlined in this manual to minimize the possibility of unexpected auger rotation. Unexpected auger rotation can result in the loss of machine control and the possibility of property damage and/or personal injury.

8) Start and operate the Hole Digger only in a well ventilated area. Carbon Monoxide fumes given off by an engine are poisonous. Breathing these fumes can result in property damage and/or personal injury. Operate the Hole Digger only when/where visibility and light are adequate for the job at hand. Work carefully. Always hold the operator handles firmly with both hands. Wrap your fingers around the handles, keeping them cradled between your thumbs and fingers. Always determine the operator handles are in good condition and free of moisture, pitch, oil or grease. Wear gloves to improve your grip. Never leave the Hole Digger running unattended.

9) Stop the engine between each hole. Allowing the engine to remain operating between each hole substantially increases the potential for property damage and/or personal injury. Special care must be exercised on slippery conditions and on difficult, uneven surfaces. Watch for cracks, high spots and other surface irregularities. Keep proper footing and balance at all times. The normal use of this machine is on level surfaces. Other terrains can be dangerous and should be avoided. Only properly trained operators should attempt these techniques.

10) The 300 Series Hole Diggers are designed to be started by both operators in the following manner: the Crew Chief regulates engine speed (RPM) with the engine throttle control while the Crew Member starts the engine by use of the recoil starter. The Crew Chief is responsible for the necessary verbal commands. Never operate a 300 Series Hole Digger if it requires one of the operators to operate the engine throttle control, carburetor choke system and the engine recoil starter (or any combination) at the same time. This is not a factory designed operating configuration for the Hole Digger. Such configuration(s) will result in loss of machine control, property damage and personal injury.



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Contact the Customer Service Department for information relative to restoring the Hole Digger to its original configuration BEFORE further utilization. There is no charge for this service.

11) Contact with a hot, engine muffler can cause property damage and/or personal injury. Remain clear of a hot engine muffler. Do not over speed the engine by altering the governor setting or by disconnecting the engine governor. Serious damage to the engine and/or personal injury can result.

12) The 300 Series Hole Digger are powered by gasoline engines which produce Carbon Monoxide fumes during the combustion process. Carbon Monoxide fumes are poisonous. Breathing Carbon Monoxide fumes while operating the Hole Digger can result in property damage and/or personal injury. The normal operation of the Hole Digger is outdoors where the potential effects of Carbon Monoxide to the operators are minimized. If the Hole Digger is operated in a closed area (indoors or outdoors), determine if supplemental ventilation is required to minimize the potential effects of Carbon Monoxide to the operators. Follow all current OSHA regulations pertaining to ventilation.

13) Because this Hole Digger is classified as a low cost, hand held, low horsepower, portable type machine, it is limited in the number of practical and/or suitable job applications. A particular job site, actual surface conditions, job specifications and operator skill/common sense may dictate that a different type of machine (with characteristics of higher purchase cost, being mounted to a carrier vehicle, with greater horsepower and less mobility), method and/or process be utilized to properly complete the job with the degree of efficiency and safety required. Contact the Customer Service Department for specific information regarding suitable job applications, job site surface conditions and operator experience/skill/common sense recommendations for the Hole Digger BEFORE utilization. There is no charge for this service.

MAINTENANCE, REPAIR AND STORAGE.

1) Use only genuine, approved replacement parts and accessories for maintenance and repair. Use of parts and accessories manufactured by others can result in property damage and/or personal injury.

2) Follow the Service instructions as outlined in the appropriate section of this manual.

3) Always stop the engine and disconnect the spark plug wire BEFORE checking or working on the Hole Digger.

4) Always properly maintain the Hole Digger. Frequently check all fasteners and individual parts. Built in safety features are effective only if they are maintained in good working condition. Replace any questionable part or assembly with a genuine, factory approved, replacement part. Do not forsake proper maintenance for the price of a few replacement parts. Proper maintenance does not cost...it actually pays dividends. Do not attempt any maintenance repair work not described in this manual. Have such work performed at your dealer's service facility.

5) Determine the engine throttle control and throttle cable assemblies are not damaged and allow for complete freedom of movement. This is necessary to allow them to perform their intended job functions. Do not operate the Hole Digger with a damaged engine throttle control and/or throttle cable assembly.

6) A worn or damaged engine muffler is a fire hazard and may cause loss of hearing. Check to see that the muffler is in good condition. If the muffler is equipped with a spark arresting device, determine that it is in proper working condition at regular service intervals. Replace the spark arresting device with an approved replacement if there is any question of its integrity. It is the responsibility of the owner(s) and/or operator(s) to provide for and properly maintain a USDA approved, spark arresting muffler in an operating area specified by law. Check with appropriate governing agencies for more specific information. The Hole Digger must not be operated if the muffler is faulty or has been removed. Contact with a hot engine muffler can cause property damage and/or personal injury.

7) Maintain all safety and operation decals in proper condition. If any decal becomes damaged and/or unreadable, replace with a genuine, factory approved, replacement part only.

8) The Hole Digger may utilize self locking type hexagon head nuts to minimize the effects of vibration. Replace all self locking hardware with genuine, factory approved, replacement parts only.

9) Consult the material supplied by the engine manufacturer for specific information relative to proper operational, lubrication and storage requirements.

10) Replace the auger teeth and screw bit when signs of excessive wear are seen. When such components are not replaced at proper intervals, excessive wear will occur at the boring head and auger flighting. The end result is an inverted cone configuration for the auger which usually requires complete replacement. FIGURE 1. Digging with augers that are past their useful service

