

## STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

# Axe

**DO NOT use this machine unless you have received authorization from the Shop Coordinator**



Work boots with non-skid soles must be worn at all times.



Appropriate gloves must be worn at all times.



Eye protection must be worn at all times.



If cutting overhead, a hard hat must be worn.

### Potential Hazards and Injuries

- ⚠ Struck- by
- ⚠ Laceration.
- ⚠ Impalement
- ⚠ Slips, Trips & Falls

### Pre-Operational Safety Checks

- ✓ Inspect equipment before each use.
- ✓ Make sure the handle is clean and free of cracks or splits and the head is securely fastened to the handle.
- ✓ Make sure the blade is sharp and free of burrs.
- ✓ Put on required PPE before using equipment.
- ✓ If working overhead, make sure to wear a hard hat. Use chaps for added protection.
- ✓ Clear work area to 10 feet of obstacles that could deflect the blade such as bushes or overhanging branches.
- ✓ Clear the work area of bark, limbs, or other items that could affect footing.
- ✓ Notify other workers in work area before swinging. Maintain safe distance from other workers. Anticipate wood chips flying long distances (> 20') when using an axe.
- ✓ Be sure that trees or logs to be chopped are secured and will not move when worked on.
- ✓ Be aware that the trees or logs that are suspended above the ground may shift and move unexpectedly or when worked on.

### Safe Practices During Operation

- ✓ When transporting the tool in a vehicle make sure the tool is secured within the vehicle and will not become airborne in the event of a sudden stop.
- ✓ When carrying, grasp the handle directly behind the head and carry it with the blade pointing down and away from the body.
- ✓ If traveling on a slope, carry axe/hatchet in your downhill hand.
- ✓ If transporting on a pack, place the blade down and facing back in case of a trip or fall.
- ✓ Always swing away from your body and toward the cut.
- ✓ Keep the striking angle of the blade perpendicular to the wood, to prevent glancing blows.
- ✓ Position feet firmly with weight distributed evenly. Maintain a firm grip on the handle.
- ✓ When limbing, stand with the tree trunk between you and the limb being cut.
- ✓ Follow manufactures recommendations for use and care of equipment.

### Ending Operations and Cleaning Up

- ✓ When not in use, protect the blade with a sheath, or other appropriate cover.

### DON'T

- ⊗ Never carry with the axe/hatchet blade on your shoulder.
- ⊗ Do not use the tool in unsafe conditions.
- ⊗ Be sure the swing follow through is not in line with legs or feet.

**SOP must be used in conjunction with an effective training program**