



**PHONE:** (08) 8632 1032  
**EMAIL:** sales@pirehire.com.au  
**WEB:** www.pirehire.com.au

# SAFE OPERATING PROCEDURE

## LEG WHACKER

The instructions recommended within this document apply to normal risk conditions. If the Leg Whacker is to be operated in a dangerous or hostile environment, the user/client hiring this equipment from Pirie Hire Pty Ltd is responsible for conducting an appropriate risk analysis, and applying suitable controls to mitigate those additional risks.

### GENERAL SAFETY

- The Leg Whacker can only be operated if it is a safe and sound operating condition by a competent operator.
- No smoking, drugs or alcohol is permitted.
- Operator must stay within the safe operating load limits of the machine.
- Ensure all operating functions are working prior to use.
- Operator to wear appropriate PPE (safety footwear, ear protection etc).
- Worksites near roads must have separation from the flow of traffic.
- Operation of unit is best on level ground.
- Ensure adequate fresh air is available if using machine in an enclosed area.
- Check to ensure there are no underground services in the work area.
- Do not leave machine unattended while still in operation.
- Switch off machine and allow to cool before refuelling.





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## **OPERATING CONDITIONS**

- Carry out a visual inspection on machine prior to use.
- Ensure you receive basic instructions on starting machine & operating functions before using.
- Make sure ground conditions are suitable to support machine and load.
- Switch machine off when not being operated.
- Do not allow children to operate the machine, and always ensure area is clear when starting up in case of accidental movements.
- Ensure there is adequate turning room and space to manoeuvre machine in the work area.
- Never operate near observers or other people.
- Refer to operator's manual for all other requirements.
- Always use 2 people when loading/unloading machine manually.
- Beware of moving plate, crush injury can occur.
- Ensure all guards and covers are in place before use.

## **PARKING**

- Park where there will be no obstruction to vehicles, site personnel or access ways.
- Do not impede road traffic and post reflective warning signs where possible.
- Ground attachment and switch off machine as shown below:

## **INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE**

- If on extended hire, Leg Whacker and mechanisms are to be inspected regularly. Servicing and repairs are to be organised by Pirie Hire Pty Ltd.
- Operator to carry out daily inspections of fuel, check and top up fluid levels, as required also.
- If any damage is done to the machine, cease use and contact Pirie Hire Pty Ltd for inspection.

**The above instructions must be followed at all times. If any one of these instructions are not possible, contact the Pirie Hire staff immediately for assistance.**

**For a basic tutorial on the operation of a Leg Whacker, watch this clip:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EKoXlasrBRQ>



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## LEG WHACKER RISK ASSESSMENT

Risk Area/Hazard	Consequence	Likelihood	Controls
Leg Whacker striking somebody <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mobile Plant</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Serious Injury</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Possible</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set up an exclusion zone around machine while operating</li> <li>Communication where possible</li> <li>Do not exceed machine operating limits and specifications</li> <li>Operate to the weather conditions</li> </ul>
Machine contacting underground cables <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Electrical</li> <li>Water</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Serious Injury</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Very unlikely</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dial before you dig to ensure there are no underground cables or pipes</li> </ul>
Hearing loss and asphyxiation from exhaust fumes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PPE</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Long term hearing damage</li> <li>Breathing issues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unlikely</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wear hearing protection</li> <li>Avoid operation in enclosed spaces</li> </ul>
Explosion or fire when refuelling <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Electrical/Static</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Serious Injury</li> <li>Fatality</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unlikely</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Switch machine off, and allow to cool before refuelling</li> <li>Avoid fuel touching hot engine parts</li> <li>Ensure fuel cap is sealed correctly</li> </ul>
Crush injury to feet <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stored energy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Serious Injury</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Possible</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operate to the conditions and within the machines specified limitations.</li> <li>Wear steel cap boots at all times.</li> </ul>