

Operating Guideline # 110

Augers

December 6, 2023



PURPOSE:

This guideline shall serve to establish safe operation of an ice auger.

ISSUE/RATIONALE:

Ice Augers are used in firefighting operations to allow access to static water sources during freezing temperatures to supply pumper trucks through drafting operations. The use of any cutting tool is dangerous and can lead to serious injury or death.

GUIDELINE:

1. Personal floatation device shall be worn when working on frozen water.
2. Firefighters shall be trained to operate an auger on land prior to attempting to operate at an emergency.
3. Preventing accidents is the responsibility of every power equipment operator. The safety precautions identified in this guideline must be fully understood and followed by every firefighter.
4. All firefighters must take the time to become familiar with this power ice auger and its components, then operate it in a safe manner.
5. Avoid mishandling and abuse of your power ice auger. Handle it with care, as any rough treatment can cause damage to the power ice auger and it can cause a malfunction.
6. Do not re-open old holes with your power ice auger.
7. Should the engine stop while drilling, do not attempt to restart it while the drill bit is in the hole.
8. Never attempt to adjust or repair your power ice auger while the engine is running or the battery is attached.
9. Never modify your power ice auger in any way.
10. Check the tightness of screws, nuts, and bolts annually and re-tighten if necessary.
11. Do not wear loose clothing while operating your power ice auger and keep all clothes and parts of the body (hands, feet, etc.) clear of the rotating ice drill assembly to avoid being drawn into the boring drill.
12. By wearing cleated or spiked shoes, or ice creepers when using your power ice auger, you will find it easier to control the rotational torque as you drill holes in the ice.
13. Give your complete and undivided attention to the proper operation of your power Ice auger. To operate it properly, you must be in good physical condition and mental health and not under the influence of any substance (alcohol, drugs, etc.) which might impair vision, dexterity, or judgment.
14. Using your power ice auger may be strenuous. If you have any condition that may be aggravated by strenuous activity, check with your doctor before operating.
15. Do not operate the auger when you are fatigued. Tiredness may result in loss of control of your power ice auger.
16. Do not carry the power ice auger while the engine is running or with auger spinning.

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17. If the Auger is gas powered close the gas tank cap's air vent when the engine is stopped.
18. Always drain the gasoline from the tank before storing or transporting.
19. When transporting your gas power ice auger in a vehicle, properly secure it to prevent turnover, spillage and damage.
20. Do not fill the fuel tank while your gas power ice auger is running, if the engine is hot, or when your gas power ice auger is in an enclosed area.
21. Always fill the fuel tank of a gas powered auger outdoors
22. Before starting a gas powered auger check that the spark plug wire is attached to the spark plug.
23. Before starting a gas powered auger be sure ignition switch is in the ON Position.
24. Before starting a gas powered auger be sure air vent screw on fuel tank can is OPEN.
25. Before starting any powered auger inspect the machine for proper condition and operation, paying special attention to the throttle, switches, and drilling assembly.
26. Never run a gas powered auger indoors, inside of vehicles or poorly ventilated areas.
27. Ensure you have a firm grip on the auger before starting the drill.
28. Where the auger is powered by gas avoid touching the muffler as the temperatures may exceed 150 degrees fahrenheit.
29. Improper cutting may be due to dull or damaged drill teeth or drill point. Maintain sharp blade teeth and point. Notify the Deputy Fire Chief if blade is dull or fails to achieve cuts.

RESPONSIBILITY:

It is the responsibility of all staff to comply with the provisions of this Operating Guideline when they are operating an ice auger supplied by the MLFD or while operating at an emergency scene.

DEFINITIONS:

Blade – Cutting auger portion of tool

REFERENCES:

- Occupational Health & Safety Act, RSO 1990