# STIHL MS 231 – Petrol Chainsaw

Petrol chainsaw with Quickstop chain brake and Master Control lever.

## PRE-START CHECKS

- Chain brake engages and releases correctly (test before each use).
- Chain sharp, correctly tensioned (no sag, still turns by hand with gloves) and guide bar undamaged; chain catcher present.
- Throttle trigger lockout and trigger spring back; Master Control lever moves to STOP.
- Chain oil tank full and oiling working; fuel tank filled with correct mix; caps tight.
- Chain scabbard available for transport.

## HOW TO OPERATE – BASIC STEPS

1. Engage the chain brake. Place the saw on the ground, secure footing, chain clear of objects.
2. Set the Master Control lever to the cold-start (choke) position, hold the saw down firmly (foot in rear handle) and pull the starter; when it fires, move to the warm-start position and restart.
3. Blip the throttle to idle, release the chain brake, and check the chain does not turn at idle.
4. Hold with both hands, thumbs wrapped around handles; cut at full throttle; stand to the side of the cutting line.
5. Avoid cutting with the bar nose (kickback zone). Never cut above shoulder height or while on a ladder.
6. To stop: move the Master Control lever to STOP. Engage the chain brake when walking more than a few steps.

## KEY HAZARDS

- Kickback, pull-in and pushback – can cause serious or fatal injury.
- Chain contact, falling timber, spring-poles under tension.
- Noise, vibration, hot muffler, fuel fire, exhaust fumes.

## REQUIRED PPE

- Chainsaw chaps/trousers, chainsaw boots, helmet with visor and earmuffs, safety glasses, cut-resistant gloves, close-fitting clothing.

## REFUELLING / POWER / CHARGING

- Two-stroke fuel mix: unleaded petrol + STIHL two-stroke oil at 1:50 (or STIHL MotoMix). Fill chain oil at each refuel. Refuel only with the engine stopped and cool, outdoors, away from ignition sources – no smoking. Do not overfill; wipe up spills and move away from the refuelling spot before starting. Carry fuel only in an approved, labelled container.

## STORAGE & RETURN

- Fit the chain scabbard, let the saw cool before transport. Remove sawdust from the sprocket cover area. Return with any spare chain supplied.
- Return with all accessories supplied. Report any damage, fault or near-miss at return – do not attempt repairs.

## MANUFACTURER MANUAL & SDS

- **Manual:** STIHL MS 231 instruction manual: stihl.com.au – MS 231 manual
- **SDS:** STIHL Australia Safety Data Sheets (fuel mix, oils): stihl.com.au – Safety Data Sheets. Petrol SDS from your fuel supplier.

**Licence / competency:** No WA licence required, but the operator must be trained and competent in chainsaw use (accredited chainsaw training strongly recommended). Tree felling near powerlines requires authorised workers only.

**EMERGENCY: call 000** (Police/Fire/Ambulance) • Poisons Information 13 11 26 • Breakdown or help: see the Contact page at foothillshire.com.au • Site first aider / supervisor: _____

**IMPORTANT – READ BEFORE USE.** This sheet is a summary only and does not replace the manufacturer's operator manual. The hirer must read, understand and follow the manufacturer's manual and all warning labels before use, and must ensure every operator is trained, competent and – where required – licensed for this equipment and task, as required by the Work Health and Safety Act 2020 (WA) and the Work Health and Safety (General) Regulations 2022 (WA). Do not use equipment that is damaged, untagged or out of inspection date – stop and contact Foothills Hire. Foothills Hire is a business name held by Foothills Industries Group Pty Ltd, ABN 38 688 848 302.