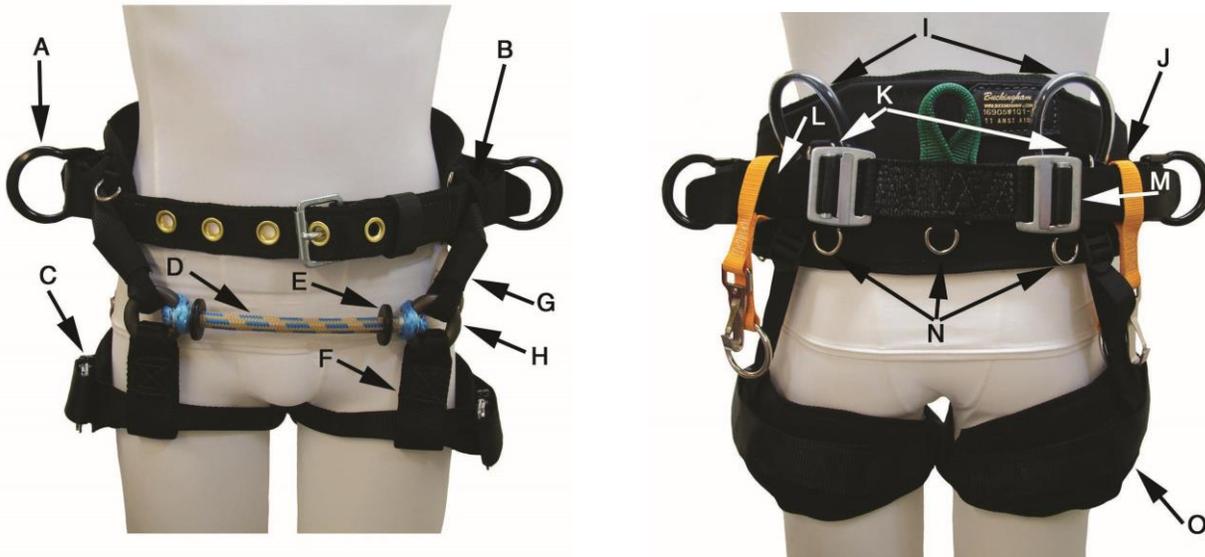


# BUCKINGHAM MFG.

## PN 16905 “BuckCat” Series Saddles Instructions/Warnings

The “BuckCat” is a light weight saddle developed for the professional arborist. It is fully adjustable at the sides, waist and legs to provide ease of use, comfort, adjustability, versatility and safety. The “BuckCat” offers advantages over a conventional saddle including:

- multiple adjustments to obtain a custom fit.
- the ability to change the length of or replace the suspension bridge.



- A- Work Positioning D-rings
- B- Suspension Bridge Adjustment Strap Retaining Loop
- C- Quick Connect Buckles
- D- Suspension Bridge
- E- Rubber Bumpers
- F- Leg Strap Connectors
- G- Elastic Keeper

- H- Aluminum Rings
- I- Accessory Loops (2)
- J- Web Loops w / accessory ring / snap hook
- K- Suspender Rings
- L- Suspension Bridge Adjustment Strap
- M- Spring Loaded Friction Buckles
- N- Accessory Rings (First Aid Kit, Ditty Bag)
- O- Leg Pads

FIGURE 1

### WEARING INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) Thoroughly inspect saddle and all related equipment before each use.
- 2) Unbuckle the waist strap and each leg strap.
- 3) Pull the saddle up around the waist with the waist strap tongue buckle in the front and the leg straps towards your back.
- 4) Ensure the work positioning D-rings are slightly forward of the hip bones. Fasten the tongue buckle so that the waist belt is snug.
- 5) Wrap the leg straps around the leg so that the padded portions of the leg straps are behind the leg and the buckles are on the side of the leg.
- 6) Connect the leg strap buckles as shown in FIGURE 1.
- 7) Adjust the leg strap as necessary so they are snug, but comfortable.
- 8) Adhere the hook fastener from the excess leg strap to the corresponding loop fastener on the leg strap attached to the pad (FIGURE 2).

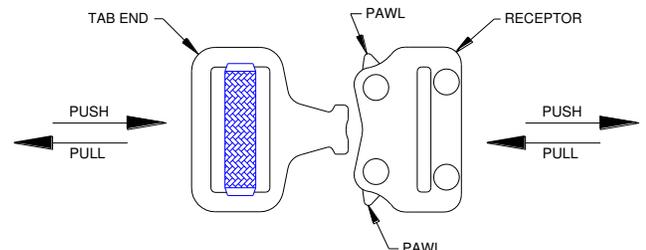


FIGURE 2

## ADJUSTMENT INSTRUCTIONS:

Once the saddle has been properly fitted, you can adjust the Suspension Bridge for the perfect feel.

- Adjustment of the Suspension Bridge by use of the Suspension Bridge Adjustment Straps will alter your position. Tightening the adjustment straps will move your position forward and loosening them will move it backwards.
- Proper adjustment of the leg pad keeper straps ensures that the leg pads will be in the most comfortable position on your legs.

## REPLACING THE WARP SPEED ROPE SUSPENSION BRIDGE OR RUBBER BUMPERS

Figure 3

### A.) Removing the Suspension Bridge:

Notes: Use only replacement Suspension Bridges (manufactured from approved tree climbing rope) supplied by Buckingham Mfg. It is only necessary to disassemble one side of the saddle, your preference as to whether the right or left side. Ensure you disassemble the leg strap and Suspension Bridge Adjustment Strap on the same side of saddle.



- 1) Separate the hook and loop fastener on the leg strap and disconnect the leg strap quick connect buckle.
- 2) Remove the interlocking halves of the quick connect buckle from the leg strap. (Figure 3).

Figure 4

- 3) Pull the leg strap through the Leg Strap Connector (Figure 4).
- 4) Unthread the Suspension Bridge Adjustment Strap through the Spring Loaded Friction Buckle (Figure 5).
- 5) Then pull the strap through the Web Loop w / accessory ring / snap hook, the D-ring, Suspension Bridge Adjustment Strap Retaining Loop and finally through the Aluminum Ring (Figure 6).



- 6) Create a large eye in the side of the Suspension Bridge that is still connected to the saddle.
- 7) Feed the free end of the Suspension Bridge through the eye created in the attached end as shown in Figure 7 and remove the Suspension Bridge.
- 8) If you are replacing the Suspension Bridge discard the old one at this time. If replacing the Rubber Bumpers slide the old bumpers off the bridge and slide the new ones on.

Figure 5



Figure 6

Figure 7

### B.) Attaching the new Suspension Bridge:

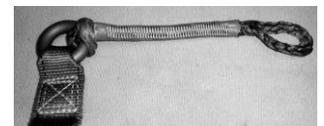
- 1) Feed one eye of the Suspension Bridge through the free Aluminum Ring (Figure 8a.) Next pass the opposite eye of the suspension bridge through the eye passed through the ring (Figure 8b.) Ensure the bight of the eye is seated tightly between the cover of the suspension bridge and ring. (Figure 8c).
- 2) Pass the opposite eye of the suspension bridge through the Aluminum Ring that is still connected to the saddle (Figure 9a). Pass the opposite side ring assembly through the eye (Figure 9b). Continue to pull the suspension bridge through the other eye of the suspension bridge until the bight of the eye is seated tightly between the cover of the suspension bridge and ring (Figure 9c).



Figure 8a

Figure 8b

Figure 8c



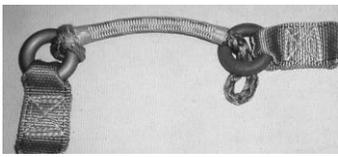


Figure 9a

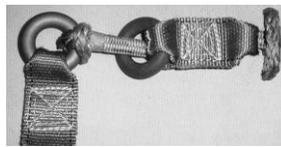


Figure 9b

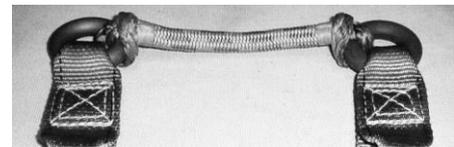


Figure 9c

- 3) Feed the free end of the Suspension Bridge Adjustment Strap through the Aluminum Ring, Suspension Bridge Adjustment Strap Retaining Loop, the D-ring, Web Loops w / accessory rings.
- 4) Thread the free end of the strap through the Spring Loaded Friction Buckle as shown in Figure 10.
- 5) Thread the leg strap through the Leg Strap Connector. Ensure the hook fastener is on the correct side of the leg strap so that once the buckle is threaded, the hook on the leg strap is facing the loop on the leg pad.
- 6) Thread the leg strap through the single slot half of the Quick Connect Buckle Frame (Figure 11a & 11b) then through the top slot of the double slot Quick Connect Frame Adjuster Bar. Next make a loop and pass the web back through the bottom slot of the Quick Connect Frame Adjuster Bar. Finally, insert web back through the Quick Connect Buckle Frame as shown in Figure 11b.
- 7) Adjust the buckle as needed and fasten the Quick Connect Buckle. Adhere the excess leg strap to the loop fastener on the leg strap stitched to the leg pad.

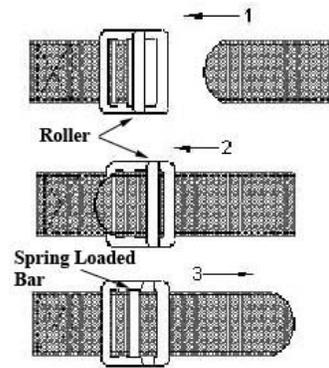


Figure 10



Figure 11a

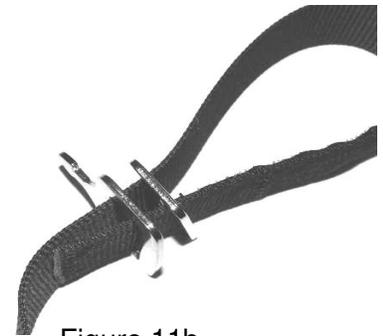


Figure 11b

### **Inspection:**

Prior to each use, carefully inspect this equipment for indications of wear or deterioration.

The inspection, should include but not be limited to inspection for:

- webbing cuts, kinks, abrasions, burns, excessive swelling, excessive wear, discoloration, cracks, charring, broken fibers, loose stitching chemical or physical exposures.
- buckle holes in strap are not damaged.
- loose, bent or pulled rivets, bent grommets, and broken, cut, or burned threads
- tongue of buckle does not bind on buckle frame
- nicks, cracks, distortion or corrosion of hardware (buckle, D-rings, etc.)

If any evidence of wear or deterioration as outlined is observed, immediately cease use, destroy the product and replace it with new equipment. Should any unusual conditions not outlined above be observed, or you have reasonable doubt about a particular condition, remove the equipment from service and notify your Supervisor, Safety Director or contact Buckingham Mfg. (1-800-937-2825) for clarification.

Failure to carefully and completely inspect your equipment could result in serious injury or death.

### **CLEANING, STORAGE and TRANSPORTATION**

Proper maintenance, storage and transportation of your equipment will prolong its useful life and contribute toward its performance. Nylon and polyester should be cleaned and disinfected with water and mild soap and be allowed to air dry thoroughly without using excessive heat. Your equipment should be stored and transported so that it does not come into contact with moisture, ultra violet rays, extreme temperatures, or chemical agents. Warnings pertaining to cleaning, storage and transportation should be strictly adhered to.

### **WARNINGS**

- Read, understand, and follow all instructions, warnings, and cautions before using this equipment. Failure to do so could result in your serious injury or death.
- This product is designed to be used by a person with a maximum weight of 350 lbs. when fully equipped.
- Buckingham arborist saddles are manufactured in accordance with ASTM F887 and are intended for use as personal protection equipment only, not for towing or hoisting and when properly used, comply with the requirements of ANSI Z133-12.

- This saddle is not designed to be used with a retro fit Fall Arrest Harness. The large loop centered at the rear of the back pad is intended for connection of saddle suspenders only (Figure 12). Saddle suspenders **ARE NOT** safety products. Suspenders are designed to support only the weight of the saddle, and the tools it contains, **NOT** the individual.
- Fall protection equipment, (i.e. fall arrest, work positioning belts, climbers, retrieval, suspension etc.) should not be resold or provided to others for re-use after use by original user as assurance cannot be granted that a used product meets criteria of applicable standards and is safe for use to a subsequent user.
- This equipment is intended for use by properly trained professionals only. Do not use without proper training.
- Before use the first time, the user should carry out a suspension test in a safe place to ensure that the equipment is the correct size, has sufficient adjustment and is of an acceptable comfort level for the intended use.
- Before use of the equipment, consideration should be given as to how any necessary rescue could be safely achieved.
- This product is to be used for positioning and suspension only, **NOT FOR FALL ARREST**. Therefore, it may be necessary to supplement arrangements for work positioning / suspension with collective means (i.e. safety nets) or personal means of protection against falls from a height (i.e. fall arrest system).
- This equipment must only be used for the specific purpose for which it is designed and intended.
- Destroy any and all equipment subjected to impact loading.
- Never work without independent fall arrest protection if there is danger of a fall.
- Keep equipment from coming into contact with sharp edges, extreme temperatures, excessive ultra violet rays and chemical agents. Exposure to these elements may have a detrimental effect on the integrity of the equipment.
- Always visually check that all buckles are properly closed before use. (If making a connection to a point that cannot be seen by the wearer, either ensure the connection is made before donning the equipment or the connection is made and checked for security by a second person).
- Attach only connecting devices meeting standards/regulations for intended use for positioning and suspension to belt D-rings and attachment points.
- Only positioning connecting devices should be attached to side D-rings, as side D-rings are not intended for fall arrest.
- Position and / or adjust the work positioning lanyard in such a manner that the anchorage point is maintained at or above waist level, the lanyard is kept taut and free movement is restricted to a maximum of 2 ft. (0.6 m).
- As outlined by OSHA 1926.502 (e)(2) positioning devices shall be secured to an anchorage capable of supporting at least twice the potential impact load of an employee's fall or 3,000 lbf. (13.3 kN), whichever is greater versus fall arrest anchor points which must support a minimum of 5,000 lbf. (22.2 kN) per attached worker and be Independent of worker support.
- As a minimum, the materials used in the manufacture of this product are acceptable for use under all normal environmental conditions tolerable to humans.
- Always visually check that each snap hook / carabiner freely engages D-ring or anchor point and keeper / gate is completely closed with each use. **Never** rely solely on the feel or sound of a snap hook / carabiner engaging. (If making a connection to a point that cannot be seen by the wearer, either ensure the connection is made before donning the equipment or the connection is made and checked for security by a second person).
- Before each use check that: 1) fabric or belt strap is free of burns, cuts, broken stitches or excessive wear, 2) rivets are not bent, loose or missing, 3) buckles and D-rings are not distorted or cracked, 4) if there is a tongue buckle, that the tongue does not bind on the buckle and buckle holes are not damaged. Always remove from service, destroy and discard belt or harness if it fails inspection.
- When in the work position, ensure there is no pressure on the snap hook locking mechanism sufficient to depress it as this will, due to its length, render it incompatible with currently designed D-rings and make it very susceptible to rollout.
- During use, all fastening and adjusting elements must be regularly checked to ensure adjustment and closure.
- Unless using locking snaphooks / carabiners designed for such connection, never attach multiple snap hooks to a D-ring.
- Never disable locking keeper on snap hook or carabiner.
- Never punch additional holes in or alter any belt or harness in any way.
- This equipment should be a personal issue to the employee using it.
- Only Buckingham Mfg. Co. or those people authorized in writing by Buckingham Mfg. Co. may make repairs / modifications to this equipment.
- Employer - instruct your employees as to proper use, warnings and cautions before use of this equipment.
- Product covered under these instructions / warnings should not be resold / redistributed or re-used after use by original user.



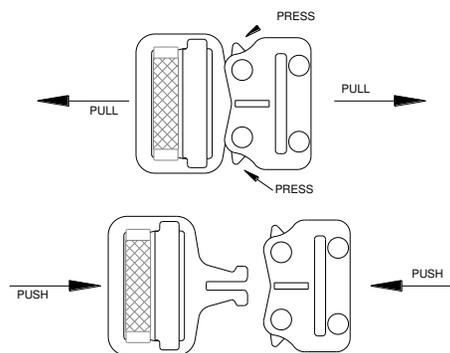
Figure 12

## Additional Instructions / Warnings for Quick Connect Buckle

### For your information and attention:

Quick Connect Buckles on those Full Body Harnesses and Arborist's Tree Saddles that include this style of buckle may unintentionally disengage under the condition outlined below:

If the pawls of the buckle do not freely rotate, proper engagement of the tab end to the receptor end of the buckle will be hindered / restricted. If as a result of the users movements or through contact with an obstruction during the course of his/her work, one of the two pawls of the receptor end of the buckle is depressed while tension is induced on the strapping attached to the buckle, the potential exists that disengagement of the tab end of that side from the pawl may occur. If that position is maintained and again through the users movements or contact with an obstruction the opposite side pawl is depressed, the tab end of the buckle may totally disengage from the receptor end.



### To eliminate the potential for this condition, you the user should:

1. Inspect your equipment before each use as you would for all safety equipment. Equipment should be replaced if you have any question / doubt about it being safe for use.
2. Always position the buckles of your equipment so that contact with obstructions is avoided.
3. Test the pawls on your Quick Connect Buckles to ensure they freely rotate and return back to their original position. If any pawl does not freely rotate, the buckle should be (a) cleaned as outlined below to ensure there are no obstructions inside the buckle hindering its intended function and (b) lubricated with a lightweight lubricant such as WD-40® as recommended for locking snaphooks. If the pawl still does not freely rotate, you should contact Buckingham Mfg. at the telephone number outlined below and request a Returned Goods Authorization Number for immediate return of your harness or Arborists tree saddle for our inspection and/or buckle replacement.
4. Ensure the receptor end and tab end of the Quick Connect Buckle is fully connected with both locking pawls engaged. When the two halves are properly attached together, a clicking sound should be heard. Complete by pulling the adjust strap through the buckle and tighten until it is snug but comfortable, thus ensuring complete engagement.

**Cleaning Instructions:** The Quick Connect Buckle may be cleaned by using a cotton swab, limited air pressure or dipping it into a container of water to remove fine particles and any foreign matter which may enter the receptor end of the buckle and preventing proper engagement and function. The exterior of the buckle should be dried with a clean cloth. The inside of the receptor end of the buckle should be air-dried and re-lubricated.

**Maintenance:** Lubricate pawls weekly or as often as required to maintain smooth operation (no binding) with a lightweight lubricant such as WD-40®. Wipe any excess lubricant off with a clean dry cloth.

## Additional Instructions / Warnings for Suspension Bridge

\*\* The Rope Suspension Bridge attached to this saddle is designed to be replaced by the user at regular intervals. This interval should be dictated by the amount of use the product receives rather than a set time frame. Therefore the manufacturer does not place a time limit on replacement of the suspension bridge. Due to the rigorous strain the Rope Suspension Bridge endures, it should be replaced at the earliest signs of wear. Suspension bridge inspection is extremely important and must be performed prior to each use. This inspection should include but not be limited to: webbing and rope cuts, nicks, tears, kinks, abrasions, burns, excessive swelling, excessive wear, discoloration, cracks, charring, broken, fraying or unraveling fibers, loose stitching chemical or physical exposure.

Failure to regularly inspect and replace the Rope Suspension Bridge could result in injury or death due to Suspension Bridge failure.

Note: Only authorized replacement parts from Buckingham Mfg. should be used on this product. The use of unauthorized replacement parts will void Buckingham Mfg's Warranty.

Buckingham's primary concern is to provide a quality product to its customers to enable them to carry out their profession in a safe manner. However, we always require our customer's assistance in proper equipment operation, inspection and maintenance.

Information contained in these written instructions supersedes all other information (written, audio, video etc.) produced by Buckingham Mfg. prior to the revision date of this document.

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