

## **CENTAUR RESCUE TOOLS**

### **It's New   It's Balanced   It's Powerful**

During the Week of September 16th to 22nd in Burlington Ontario, at the International Auto Extrication Competition and Learning Symposium, HURST launched it's new line of hydraulic tools. CENTAUR RESCUE TOOLS.

When they arrived at Code 4 Fire & Rescue in Mississauga, I was the first rescuer to see this impressive arsenal of hydraulic tools. During the competition in Burlington, I was able to assist their department through organizing the education pit for all of the tool manufacturers. For me, this was a bonus because I was going to have a chance to use the new Centaur Rescue Tools.

Having had the experience in the past to work with all of the other tool manufacturers, I was anxious to get my hands on the Centaur system. To the best of my knowledge, I was also the first person in Canada to face the challenge.

Prior to picking up the tool, I thought it be best to research the information before handling the New 10,000 psi System.

The HURST Jaws of Life Rescue System is world renowned for it power, dependability and life saving performance, for over 29 years. In 1972 HURST was the worlds first power rescue system, the Jaws of Life, the Jaws of Life revolutionized rescue operations and was envied, and is still imitated by manufacturers today.

HURST has expanded their rescue tool system for those who prefer a mineral oil based rescue tool that operates at a higher pressure. This system is in no way designed to replace the existing 5000 psi systems that are out there. It was solely designed to compete with the existing 10,000 psi systems that are available. The new Centaur Rescue Tools, are not meant to be compatable. It is a tool which stands alone as a superior rescue tool. Having a 51,000 lb per arm spread force, there is no competition for this well balanced tool.

The Centaur Rescue Tool System, consists of a Cen 32 inch multifunctional spreader, a Cen 28 inch multifunctional spreader which are both the strongest and lightest tools in their class. The Cen 32 only weighs in at 55lbs, and the Cen 28 inch spreader weighs in at only 43 lbs. The spreader body has an added gusset to maintain tool body strength and durability.

The Centaur cutting tools are extremely light in weight and have incredible cutting force. The Cen C 4.5 has a cutting force of 54,000lbs. The Cen C5 has a cutting force of 77,000lbs and the Cen C9 being the largest in the cutter class has an impressive 99,000lb cutting force! The tools range in weight from 20 lbs up to 32 lbs. Again the highest cutting force in its class. The weight of the tool is unnoticeable at a light 33 lbs. There is no job too challenging for this tool, from transportation rescue , to building colapse, this cutter is a must.

### **SAFETY**

With safety in mind, both spreader and cutter are perfectly balanced. The cross handle bar was designed so that the rescuer can hold the tool in any position safely, and not worry about getting the job done. The stargrip control is forefinger and thumb operated, and only requires 1/4 inch movement. There's no need to twist your wrist and fumble with the control. Overhead tool use is safe and simple with this stargrip control.

The Centaur Ram Collection includes the worlds first 3 stage telescopic ram. The Cen 40 ram is powerful and lightweight. When closed it will fit into the shortest standard ram opening, and increase to 40 inches.

The Centaur Combination Tool is the first combi tool to weigh in at less than 22 lbs. The Cen 10 is a great tool for light rescue work , but had no problem handling heavier tasks. It's a great compliment to any heavy rescue system with a cutting force of 38,200 lbs. Upgrading to the CenC 14 will give you 61800 lbs. Of cutting force which again is impressive for a compliment tool. The inside cutting edge falls just short of the tip by approximately 1 ½ inch. Not really critical, but something to consider when working with this well balanced tool. A great tool for vehicle accidents as well as structural collapse. For the smaller rescuer, either of these tools is ideal.

### **Pumps**

Another first for HURST, the first Trimultaneous pump to be able to have 3 rescue tools connected and working at the same time, without any possible loss of power. Now thats impressive! Spread, cut and push, all at the same time. With the auto manufacturer making it tougher for rescuers to accomplish a 20 minute extrication,

due to material strength, multi tasking is a must. With the Trimo pump, there's no down down time to change tools over. Seconds count when your trying to save a life. This feature is second to none! Although it weighs in at a heavy 100 lbs, a simple adaptable hose reel and you can leave it right on the truck. If the trimo is more than you require, a simultanious pump for only a two tool set up is available. Again there was no loss of power when working two tools at the same time. The hoses are kevlar and have a quick release coupling. A positive improvment when working in low or limited light areas. They also carry a 4:1 ratio.

### **NFPA Compliant**

The Centaur Rescue Tools also meet the N.F.P.A. 1936 Standard Requirements on power rescue tool system 1999 edition.

Since the tool was introduced, I have cut up approximately 30 vehicles to date. I feel that this tool is definately an asset to any rescue and give it 2 thumbs up! From school bus rescue, to heavy truck, to micro alloy and boron steel, this tool has NO FEAR! If you get a chance, try it, I'm sur that you'll be impressed!

I would like to thank Carry Slote from Code 4 Fire & Rescue for supplying the Centaur Rescue System and assisting with the research.

Stay Safe

Pete

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