



Chainsaw Safety Awareness

Chainsaw Knowledge

Basic Information

Chainsaws were once used only in the logging industry, but are now common tools for ranchers, farmers and homeowners. These modern wonders of cutting are used for clearing land, trimming trees and cutting firewood. With up to 600 teeth passing a given point each second, the chainsaw is one of the most efficient cutting devices ever invented. However, a chainsaw in the hands of an inexperienced or careless operator is a dangerous device. Some of the accidents associated with chainsaws include:

- chainsaw kickback;
- reaching across or holding work near the moving blade;
- losing control of the saw due to loss of footing;
- cutting at or above waist level;
- climbing while carrying a running chainsaw;
- getting struck by falling limbs or flying particles; and
- receiving burns from contact with hot chainsaw parts or fires.

Many chainsaw injuries occur because operators come into

contact with the blade by failing to follow recommended operating procedures. The best way to avoid chainsaw accidents is to read the owner's manual carefully. After you **have read and understood the owner's manual**, you will need to equip yourself with the proper clothing and other protective equipment (PPE) to help reduce the possibility of a serious injury.

PPE

Clothing. Clothes should be well fitted (not baggy) and be free of dangling strings, loose belt ends, or anything that could become entangled in the chainsaw. Note: OSHA requires the use of cut-resistant nylon, for protection of legs and thighs.

Head protection. A properly fitted hard hat provides protection from falling tree limbs, branches, or other material that could cause serious head injuries.

Eye protection. Safety goggles, face shields, or safety glasses with

side shields will prevent eye injury from flying wood chips, twigs, and sawdust.

- **Hearing protection.** Ear muffs or earplugs should be worn by the operator to protect from continual exposure to noise from the operating saw.
- **Foot protection.** Protect your ankles and feet with steel-toed boots in case of accidental contact with the moving saw blade. Slip-resistant soles may be necessary to provide additional safety if weather conditions or terrain indicate the need.
- **Hair.** Secure long hair or wear it under a hat so that it doesn't obstruct your view or become entangled.
- **First-aid Kits.** OSHA requires employers to provide a first-aid kit at each work site where trees are being cut.



Safe Handling/Operations

Before operation, perform an equipment inspection of the following:

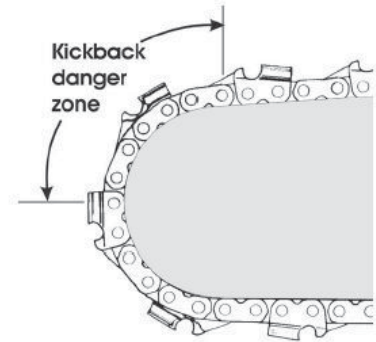
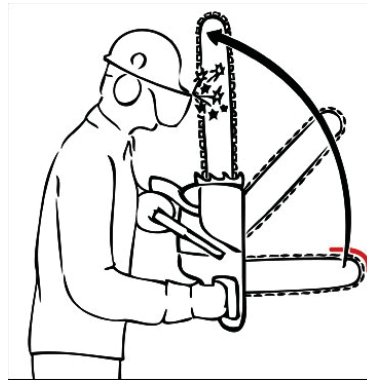
- Handles and guards, to assure that they are not damaged or altered in any way.
- Controls, to assure proper function.
- Chainsaw chains, to assure proper chain tension adjustment.
- Chainsaw muffler, to assure that they are operational and in place.
- Always wear protective clothing; work gloves, eye and ear protection, chainsaw protective pants or chaps, helmet and boots.
- All other safety devices - throttle lock, chain catcher & chain brake, to assure that they are in place and functioning properly.
- Make sure air filter is clean.
- Check starter rope for any frays, tears or improper adjustment.

limb in front of the saw cut, the saw will be forced in an upward arc back toward you.

To prevent kickback maintain a firm, two-handed grip of the saw by:

- grasping the forward handle with the left hand, palm down;
- wrapping your fingers around the handle bar and keeping it between your index finger and thumb; and
- firmly grasping the rear handle with the right hand.

- Never stand directly in back of a cut. Stand to one side of the cut. When cutting limbs from a felled tree (limbing), stand on the opposite side of the trunk from the cut.
- Saw only with the bottom part of the chain, with the work against the saw or saw bumper. Never cut with the nose or tip of the chainsaw.
- Avoid cutting limbs above mid-chest height.



Other Tips

- Make sure each tool is used only for purposes for which it is designed.
- The cutting chain should be sharpened in accordance with manufacturer's specifications whenever it becomes dull during the workshift.
- Each tool should be stored in the proper location when not being used at a work site.

Take precautions to avoid kickback... one of the leading causes of chainsaw accidents. The kickback zone is the upper part of the nose of the bar. This part of the bar has a high kickback risk. Be conscious of where the nose of the bar is at all times to lessen the likelihood of kickback. Accidental contact with this part of the bar with any surface can cause kickback.

Kickback

Kickback occurs when the upper chain or the chain at the nose of the guide bar grabs into the wood or other obstruction, and with the force of the engine, pushes (or kicks) the saw back toward the operator. This action can cause even an experienced operator to lose control of the saw and come into direct body contact with the moving saw blade. If the upper chain is involved, the saw can be forced straight back toward you. If you attempt to make cuts with the tip of the chainsaw or if the tip of the saw comes in contact with a hidden

SAFETY TRAINING SIGN-IN

Company Name: _____ Date: _____

Subject: Chainsaw Safety Awareness

The following employees participated in this training.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
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