



## **CHAINSAWS**

### **Potential Hazards**

1. amputation
2. cuts/laceration
3. hearing loss
4. eye injury
5. fire

### **Personal Protective Equipment Required**

- |                 |                          |                 |
|-----------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Hard hat        | CSA Boots                | Leg protection  |
| Face shield     | Hearing protection       | Skin protection |
| Hand protection | Hi-vis protective jacket | (clothing)      |

## **SAFE WORK PROCEDURE**

### **PRELIMINARY ACTIVITIES**

Prior to any work commencing supervisors must conduct a hazard assessment of all applicable work areas. Any hazards that are found during the hazard assessment must be addressed prior to any work commencing.

Chainsaw operators are encouraged to receive training in the safe handling of saws and the use of proper cutting methods before attempting any cutting tasks.

### **PROCEDURES FOR WORKING SAFELY**

1. If you have never used a chainsaw ask for instructions.
2. Inspect chain to ensure it is installed correctly.
3. Correct chain tension.
4. Chain is to be sharp.
5. Check oil in all oil chambers.
6. Always use both hands when starting a chain saw, one to hold the saw and the other to pull the starter rope.
7. Some chain saws can also be held down with a foot while starting Check the owner's manual for additional starting information.
8. Grip the top handle of the saw firmly and pull the starter rope quickly.
9. It is not a safe practice to start a chain saw while holding it in mid-air with one hand. Always start it on the ground on a stable surface.
10. Ensure chain brake is operating.
11. Do not use the chainsaw if the brake is not operating correctly.
12. Ensure material to be cut is clean.
13. Ensure work area is clean and free of obstacles.
14. Ensure material to be cut is firmly held, and supported close to the line of cut to prevent binding of blade.
15. If cutting a object from below, do it in two stages: first cut from above, then make another cut from below to meet the first.
16. A chainsaw is never to be handled with one hand. Always use both hands to control the chain saw. Cutting a tree or limb while you have only one hand controlling the saw is very dangerous.
17. Never force a chain saw through a cut, if it is properly sharpened and adjusted it will cut, almost by itself. Keep in mind that the hardness of the wood will have a major effect on how quickly it cuts.
18. The chain must come to a stop before moving from one cut to another.
19. Store chainsaw in clean dry area.
20. Ensure chain cover is in place.
21. Ensure fuel and oil is not leaking.

### **REFUELING CHAINSAW**

1. Check fuel line, tank cap and connections for leaks.
2. Allow hot saw to cool two or three minutes before refueling.
3. When refuelling, use the recommended gas and oil mixture.
4. After refuelling, tighten the tank cap to prevent fuel spilling onto clothing.
5. Store fuel in approved containers.
6. Do not smoke during or after refueling.



### **DO'S**

1. Use safe methods of starting a saw.
2. Carry the saw with the bar to the rear.
3. Use a proper grip while operating a saw i.e. grip the handle by putting your thumb around it.
4. Keep your elbow locked.
5. Keep both hands on the saw while it is cutting.
6. Ensure safe footing.
7. Keep the saw close to your body.
8. Keep upper tip of bar in solid wood.
9. Avoid kickback situations.
10. Always avoid making cuts with the saw between your legs
11. Always cut with the saw to the outside of your legs.
12. Always stand to one side of the limb you are to cut, never straddle it.
13. Starting every cut under full throttle.
14. Always keep in mind where the chain will go if it breaks, never position yourself or other people in line with the chain.
15. Keep the chain sharp.
16. Keep the chain out of the dirt, debris will fly, the teeth will be dulled and the chain life shortened considerably.
17. The saw should be transported in a case but if one is not available then keep the bar in a chain guard.
18. Follow the manufacturer's written guidelines and instructions.

### **DO NOT:**

1. Do not stand directly behind saw while cutting.
2. Do not operate the saw above waist level.
3. Do not operate the chain saw with one hand and push the object with the other hand.
4. Do not operate saw if it is backfiring.
5. Do not stand on a log and saw between your feet.
6. Do not carry the saw in the passenger area of a vehicle.