

USING CHAINSAWS



What Can Happen

- Severe cuts or amputations
- Eye injuries
- Hearing loss
- Muscle sprains or strains
- Vibration-related injuries
- Injuries from falling branches or trees

Preparation

- Only conduct work that you have been trained on and are competent to do; never work alone
- Read the operator's manual before using the chainsaw
- Make sure the machine is in good repair, by conducting a pre-use inspection; this inspection may include the following:
 - ensuring that the chain brake operates properly
 - ensuring that the chain guards are in place
- Prepare the cutting site and plan an escape route

Operating Chainsaws

- Wear the personal protective equipment (PPE) recommended by the operator's manual or required by your supervisor (e.g., goggles, earmuffs, hard hat, gloves, safety boots, etc.)
- Be sure you have a firm grip and good footing

- Start the saw on the ground, pointing away from your body
- Make sure the chainsaw is turned off when you put it down
- Watch out for falling branches or tree
- **Do not** cut with the tip of the saw because the chainsaw can kick back
- **Do not** operate saw above waist level
- **Do not** stand directly behind saw when cutting

Maintenance

- Refuel when engine is cool and avoid open flames when refueling
- Follow the instructions in the operator's manual when filing the chain and adjusting the tension
- Sharpen the saw if:
 - The chain tends to 'walk' sideways while cutting
 - The cut shows fine powder instead of chips
 - It is necessary to press hard to cut
 - Smell burnt wood
- If a chain is too loose it will derail; if it is too tight it will bind
- Proper lubrication prolongs the life of the saw and increases safety

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