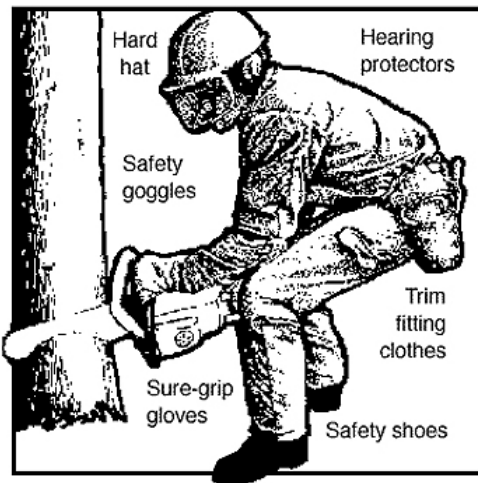


MONTHLY SAFETY BLAST CHAIN SAW SAFETY



Chain saws are powerful machines capable of performing great work and inflicting great injury. Although the agricultural industry, including the forestry/logging sector, is becoming more mechanized, chain saws are still used for many tasks. Appropriate personal protective equipment and safe operating procedures are absolutely necessary when using a machine that involves sharp metal teeth moving at high rates of speed.

Personal Protective Equipment



Safe Operation

- Check controls, chain tension, bolts, and handles to ensure they are functioning properly.
- Make sure the teeth are sharp and the lubrication reservoir is full.
- Start the saw on the ground or on another firm support.
- Start the saw at least 10 feet away from the fuel with the chain's brake engaged.
- Never fuel a running or hot chain saw.
- Clear away dirt, debris, small limbs, and rocks from the chain saw's path.
- Look for nails, spikes, or other metal in the tree before cutting.
- Keep your hands on the handles and maintain a secure footing.
- Be careful that the trunk or tree limbs will not bind against the saw.
- To avoid saw kickback, do not saw with the tip. If equipped, keep tip guard in place.

Resources

<http://www.osha.gov/Publications/3269-10N-05-english-06-27-2007.html>

<http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/pubs/ageng/safety/ae1025w.htm>

<http://extension.missouri.edu/p/G1959>

Southwest Center for Agricultural
Health, Injury Prevention & Education
11937 US Hwy 271
Tyler, TX 75708-3154

Phone: 903-877-5896
Fax: 903-877-7014
E-mail: agcenter@uthct.edu
www.swagcenter.org