

Chain Saw Safety



Operating a chain saw can be hazardous. Potential injuries can be minimized by using proper personal protective equipment and safe operating procedures. Review the following chain saw safety tips with your employees.

Toolbox Tips

- Check controls, chain tension and all bolts and handles to ensure that they are functioning properly and that they are adjusted according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Ensure the chain is always sharp and the oil tank is full.
- Start the saw on the ground or on another firm support.
- Clear away dirt, debris, small tree limbs and rocks from the saw's chain path. Look for nails, spikes or other metal in the tree before cutting.
- Keep your hands on the saw's handles and maintain balance while operating the saw.
- Proper personal protective equipment (PPE) must be worn when operating the saw, which includes hand, foot, leg, eye, face, hearing and head protection.
- Do not wear loose-fitting clothing while operating a chain saw.
- Gasoline-powered chain saws must be equipped with a protective device that minimizes kickback.
- Be cautious of saw kickback. To avoid kickback, do not saw with the tip.
- Use approved containers for transporting fuel to the saw.
- Dispense fuel at least 10 feet away from any sources of ignition.
- No smoking during fueling.
- Never attempt to fuel a running or hot saw.

These advisory materials have been developed from national standards and sources believed to be reliable, however, no guarantee is made as to the sufficiency of the information contained in the material and MEM assumes no liability for its use. Advice about specific situations should be obtained from a safety professional.