



## TOOLBOX TALK: CHAINSAW SAFETY

# Putting Safety Ahead of Convenience

Chainsaws are a valuable resource and can be used both in the workplace and at home. However, if not used correctly, this tool can quickly cause severe injuries or can even be fatal. That's why it's vital for users to read the chainsaw manual for proper operating instructions and to take steps to protect themselves.

### GENERAL SAFETY PRACTICES FOR OPERATING A CHAINSAW

#### PROTECTING YOURSELF AND OTHERS

Wear the appropriate personal protective equipment. This includes safety glasses or goggles, heavy-duty non-slip gloves, sturdy boots, hearing protection, fitted clothing, chaps and a hard hat. Ensure that others keep a safe distance from you and any falling debris.

#### TRANSPORTING THE SAW

Use the chain guard when the saw is not in use. Always carry the saw at your side with the cutting bar and chain to the rear and to the outside. Never carry a chain saw in the passenger area of a vehicle.

#### FUELING THE SAW

Use the proper fuel mixture recommended by the manufacturer. Never fuel a hot chain saw; let it cool first. Always fuel in a clear area, away from debris. If the fuel can has no spout, use a funnel. Wipe the saw clean of any spilled fuel, and never smoke while fueling.

#### STARTING THE SAW

1. Move 10 feet or more away from the fueling area, in a clear, debris-free area.
2. Secure the saw firmly on the ground by putting your foot through the rear handle and holding it down with one hand on the top handle.
3. Pull the starter cord with the other hand. The chain should not be moving while the saw is idling. Never start the saw while holding it off the ground or by "drop starting" it.

#### CUTTING

- Keep both hands on the saw when in use.
- Remove debris that could cause slipping, loss of balance or contact with the chain.
- Avoid kickback that occurs when the saw rotates back due to the nose of the saw contacting an object or obstruction.
- Take frequent breaks. Injuries can occur when the operator gets tired or withstands long periods of saw vibration.

## TO PREVENT KICKBACK

- Use a saw equipped with a chain break or kickback guard.
- Hold the saw firmly with both hands.
- Watch for twigs that can snag the chain.
- Don't pinch the chain while cutting a log.
- Cut with the lower part of the bar close to the bumper, not on the top near the nose.
- Maintain high saw speed when entering or leaving a cut.
- Keep the chain sharp.
- Don't reach above your shoulder to cut.

I understand the information presented and the importance of properly operating this piece of equipment. I will store, transport, and operate chainsaws in a safe and responsible manner.

COMPANY: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMPLOYEE NAME:

EMPLOYEE SIGNATURE:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Learn more ways to keep your workplace safe.  
Visit [safeatwork.mo.gov](https://safeatwork.mo.gov).

