

Section Two: The Chain Saw



Chain Saw Injury Location

Arm and Hand Area	17,994
Leg Area	16,348
Head injuries	3,418
Foot Area	2,885
Upper Body Area	2,141

Accident location and frequency as related to chain saw use (1994) US Consumer Product Safety Commission

The Chain Saw

“Always remember, the top front of the bar is the area prone to kick-back. No other part of the saw will work so hard to get you.”



Avoid Injury as well as be more productive

- The chain saw is one of the most efficient, productive and **dangerous** portable power tools of any industry!
- Proper operation and maintenance will help with both safety and productivity!
- Learn as much as you can about your saw.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions!

Before starting your saw

- Check controls, chain tension, bolts, and handles.
- Adjust according to manufacturer's instructions.
- Fuel at least 10 ft. from ignition sources.
- Start at least 10 ft. away from fuel.
- Start with chain brake on and on the ground or firmly supported.
- Fuel containers must be metal or plastic, not exceed 3 gallons, and be approved type. (metal safety cans are best)

While running your saw

- Keep hands on handles.
- Maintain secure footing.
- Clear area of things that get in the way of cutting and your retreat path.
- Do not cut overhead.
- Shut saw off or release throttle prior to retreating.
- Shut saw off or engage the chain brake if the terrain is hazardous or if you are traveling more than 50 ft.

The Chain Saw

“This logger knows the importance of using a proper grip. Chain brake operation, saw control, and battling fatigue all require a proper grip.”



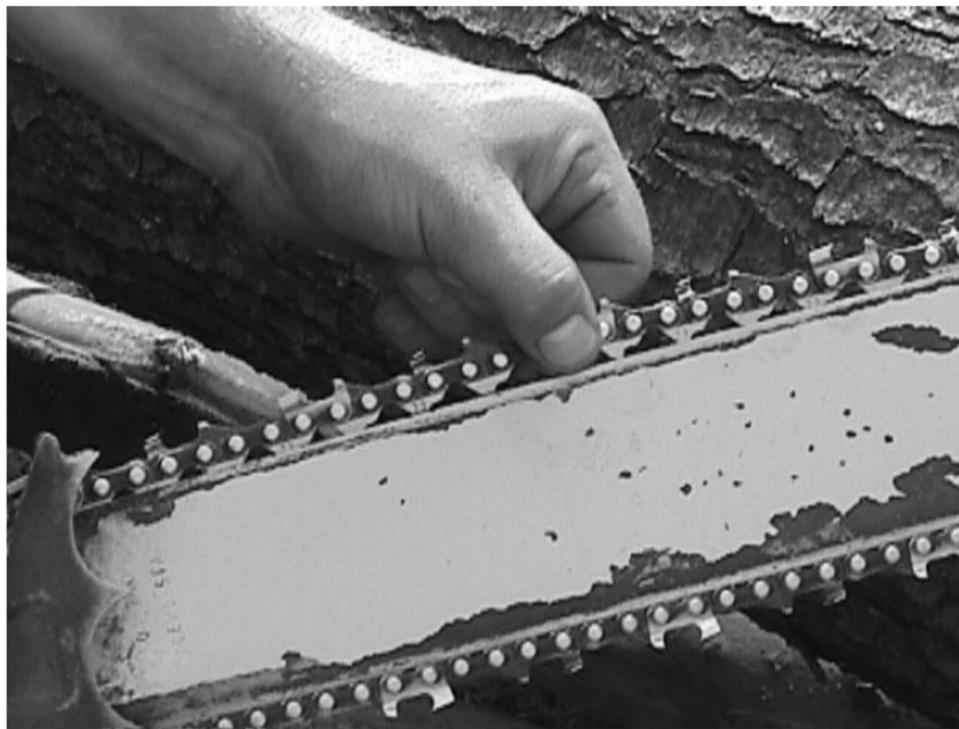


“Check your throttle lock before each shift. Many nasty cuts have been prevented by the throttle lock. You may need it when you least expect it!”

The Chain Saw

“Making sure the chain catcher is still there should be part of your pre-shift inspection”.





“Check chain tension before each shift and often there after.”

The Chain Saw

“This logger knows that a sharp saw increases production, decreases fatigue, and helps prevent injury.”





“Inspect, operate, adjust, and repair your saw according to the manufacturer. OSHA requires that you have the operator’s manual and may ask for it. Lost it? See your dealer for another copy!”

The Chain Saw

“This logger is checking the bar for straightness. He has already decided to scrap the chain.”





“This logger is refueling after making sure that there are no ignition sources within 10 feet. When finished he’ll move at least 10 feet away before starting his saw.”

The Chain Saw

“OSHA requires that the saw be started on the ground or firmly supported. This logger knows the importance of first setting the chain brake.”





“Another approved method, no drop starts!”

Chain Saw Operation Check List

- Do you inspect your saw at the beginning of each shift?
- Is your saw adjusted and used according to the manufacturer?
- Do you fuel your saw at least 10 feet from ignition sources?
- Do you start your saw at least 10 feet from the fuel sources?
- Do you start your saw with the chain brake on and firmly supported or on the ground?
- Do you keep both hands on the saw and your footing secure?
- Do you clear the area of things that get in the way of cutting and retreating?
- Do you avoid cutting overhead?
- Do you shut off or throttle release before you retreat?
- If the terrain is hazardous (WV terrain usually is) or if you are going more than 50 feet do you shut off or engage the chain brake ?