

Tree Trimming Safety

Slides

Notes

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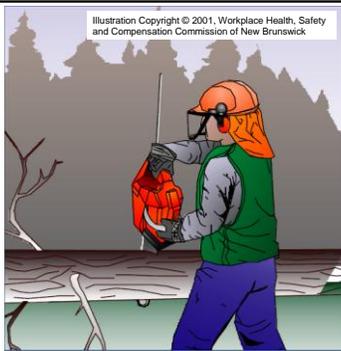
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Each instructor should change this slide to his own name & affiliation.

Discuss with trainees that we are going to visit about the most common injuries that occur while trimming trees.

We want to draw on their experience, we will be asking for their input throughout the training.

A worker had felled a large tree. He was cutting through the trunk by pulling a chainsaw towards himself in technique called a "backhander".

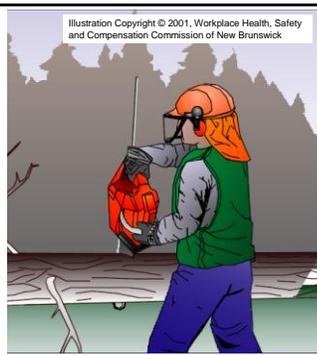


Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission. (2003). *Hazard alert: Chainsaw accident kills woodworker*. St. John, New Brunswick: WorksafesNB.

Ask trainees to predict what's going to happen next.

After trainees predict what is going to happen, ask them to describe how the job should be done. (Cut down from the top side of log, about 1/4 way through. Then cut up the rest of the way from the bottom. Saw should be right-side-up on both cuts. Demonstrate.)

When he cut through the trunk, the chainsaw struck his thigh. Co-workers heard him yell and came running, but there was little they could do. He bled to death on the way to the hospital.

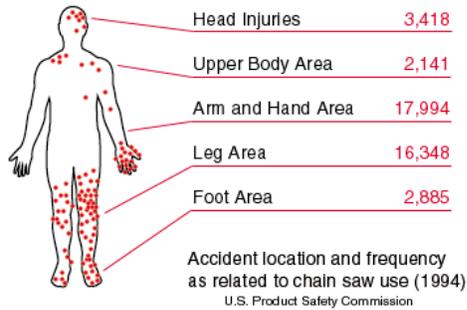


Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission. (2003). *Hazard alert: Chainsaw accident kills woodworker*. St. John, New Brunswick: WorksafesNB.

Ask trainees if they have heard of any other cases of injuries such as this. Would they care to share the story with the rest of the group?

Chainsaws cause many serious injuries to tree trimmers. Ask participants what parts of the body are most likely to be struck by a chainsaw.

Chain Saw Injury Locations



Did participants' ideas about injury locations match the body parts in the chart? Mostly hands and legs.

Most DEATHS happen when chainsaws strike operators in the legs or neck. What makes injuries in these locations so devastating? (major arteries—bleed to death).

What can participants do to protect their legs?

A worker was pulling the chain saw out from a cut.

He lost his balance and the running saw blade hit his leg.



He was wearing protective chaps, which stopped the chain immediately, and he was not injured.

Elvex Corporation, <http://www.elvex.com>

Ask one of the participants to model the protective chaps.

How many participants use chaps?

Has anyone accidentally hit their chaps with a chainsaw? What happened? What do you think would have happened if you weren't wearing chaps?

Cost range: about \$40 - \$100

On a May afternoon, a worker was using a chain saw to cut branches overhead.

Ask trainees to predict what's going to happen next.

Ask trainees to describe how the job should be done. (Don't use chainsaw above your shoulders. Instead, use pole saw, scaffold, aerial lift, etc.)

OSHA Inspection 108433095. Accident 887950. Report ID 0352440.
<http://www.osha.gov/oshstats/index.html>

On a May afternoon, a worker was using a chain saw to cut branches overhead.

Suddenly, the chain saw kicked back off a branch and struck him in the head. He was severely cut on the left side of his face from his forehead to his upper lip. He was hospitalized for his injuries.

OSHA Inspection 108433095. Accident 887950. Report ID 0352440.
<http://www.osha.gov/oshstats/index.html>

Do participants know of anyone who has been hurt in this way? Would they care to share the story?

Besides keep the saw below shoulder-level, how can participants protect their heads?

Ask one of the participants to model the helmet.

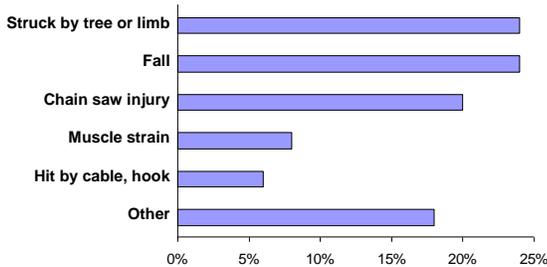
How many participants use helmet?

Cost range: about \$30 - \$70

Hands-on exercise: Ear plugs.

Tree-cutting Injuries

Bureau of Labor Statistics Analysis of 1,086 Accidents



Bureau of Labor Statistics (1984). *Work injury report (WIR) injuries in the logging industry*. Bulletin 2203 (Ex. 2-1).

Ask a few participants to give an example of an injury that corresponds to one of the categories on the chart. What precautions do they take to prevent those injuries?

Group Problems

Break the class into small groups. Give each group a problem. Participants can use the Tree Trimming safety manual and the OSHA handout as references. Explain that each problem describes circumstances they might encounter on the job. Their task is to predict likely injuries and describe steps to prevent those injuries.

Give the groups 10-15 minutes to work on their problems. Then ask them to discuss their solutions with the class.

Problem #1

You are cutting down a large tree. The tree begins to fall, but it stops when it gets hung up in another tree.

1. What issues do you need to consider?
2. How do you safely bring down the lodged tree?
3. What could have been done in advance to prevent this situation?



Refer to Lesson 4 of *Tree Trimming Safety* book & OSHA handout.

Problem #2

You are cutting down a large tree. The tree begins to fall, but is stopped by its own stump.

1. What issues do you need to consider?
2. How do you safely bring down the stalled tree?
3. What could have prevented this from happening?



Refer to Lesson 4 of *Tree Trimming Safety* book & OSHA handout.

Problem #3

You are thinning trees in a grove of closely-spaced trees. You look up and notice that there are large broken limbs in some of the trees.

1. What issues do you need to consider?
2. How do you proceed?

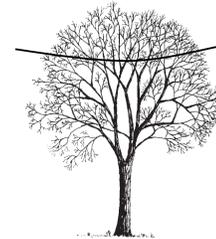


Refer to Lesson 4 of *Tree Trimming Safety* book & OSHA handout.

Problem #4

A 25 ft. maple tree has died and needs to be taken down. The tree stands 8 feet West of a 7,200 volt power line. The top of the tree is about 7 ft. taller than the power line.

1. What issues do you need to consider?
2. How do you proceed?



Refer to Lesson 2 of *Tree Trimming Safety* book

Problem #5

You need to cut down a large tree, but you notice that the trunk seems to be hollow.

1. What issues do you need to consider?

2. How do you proceed?



Refer to Lesson 4 of *Tree Trimming Safety* book & OSHA handout.

Training Wrap-Up

Ask trainees (1) if they have any questions, (2) if they have any work tasks that don't fit the procedures we covered, and (3) if there is anything else that needs to be discussed.

Make sure each trainee has signed in on the OSHA-approved sign-in sheet.

Make sure each trainee completes an OSHA-approved evaluation form.