

# CHAINSAW USE

Safety Topic V6-0275

Tools, Outdoors, Landscaping

Safety precautions to remember when operating a chainsaw:

- Before operating any chainsaw, take the time to plan ahead to ensure the work area is secure and the chainsaw is in good operating condition.
- Start the saw on the ground or another firm support, at least 10 feet from the fueling area, with the chain's brake engaged. Drop starting is never allowed.
- Never walk around with a chainsaw in the operating mode, always switch off the power source.
- Keep oil and fuels off the handles.
- Do not attempt to cut anything other than wood with a chainsaw.
- Cut only one piece of wood at a time, never two branches at once.
- Do not operate a chainsaw if you are fatigued because concentration and a secure grip won't be optimal.
- Know where the bar tip is at all times. Do not let it touch logs, branches, or the ground when the saw is running.
- Keep both hands on the handles and maintain secure footing. A secure grip and stability provides more control in the event of a kickback.
- Stand to the side of the cutting path of the chainsaw and position yourself so that you are not near the bar and chain when the saw is running.
- If the chainsaw bar gets pinched, turn off the engine first before assessing the situation to determine the best way to relieve pressure to dislodge the chainsaw.
- Always turn the chainsaw off before setting it down.
- Wearing sufficient personal protective equipment and following safe operating procedures can greatly reduce the risk for injury when using chainsaws.



*Do not use a chainsaw to cut directly overhead.*

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## Discussion

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***What PPE is best for chainsaw operation?***

***How do you ensure the work area is safe before starting work with the chainsaw?***