



# Chainsaw Operation

## Safe Work Procedures


### Introduction

A chainsaw is a dangerous tool. Ensure that a hazard and risk assessment is completed prior to commencing work.

### PPE Requirements Summary

Image	Description	Standard
	Leather Gloves	Required
	Chaps / Cutter Pants	Required
	CSA Approved Footwear	Required
	Hard Hat with ear protection and face shield	Required
	CSA Approved Hearing Protection (Fitted Plugs)	Required
	CSA Approved Eye Protection	Required
	High Visibility Vest	Required to be Worn at all Times

### Safety Equipment Summary

	First Aid Kit with Pressure Bandage	Required
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### Training Requirements

- Course on basic Chainsaw Use, Safety and Maintenance

### Use of Chainsaws

- The decision to use a chainsaw is the responsibility of the individual.
- All operators must be familiar with WorkSafeBC's regulations pertaining to chainsaw safety.
- The use of chainsaws will be limited to bucking of trees or logs and will not include the falling of trees over 15 cm.

### Working Alone Protocol

- Establish an hourly check-in procedure. See the Working Alone Safe Work Practices for more information.

### Pre-Use Inspection

- Safe operation begins with inspecting your saw. The operator's manual should always be consulted for items specific to an individual saw.

### Carrying a Chainsaw

- Shut the saw off when carrying it any distance.
- When carrying the saw keep the bar to the rear to avoid falling on the chain if you trip.
- Stop the chain of the saw when moving from cut to cut.

### Starting the Chainsaw

- Never operate in a closed environment – it will be far too loud and the fumes can be deadly.
- When starting a saw, place it on a stump or other firm foundation with the chain brake on.
- Pull choke on & set throttle to start position.
- To start the chainsaw, take up the slack in the starter cord and then pull smoothly and quickly.
- Saw will cough or run briefly & then quit. Push choke off and now it will run.
- Allow the saw to warm up on idle and moderate throttle for 30-45 seconds before cutting.

### Overhead hazards

- Always look for overhead hazards such as dead limbs or tops, loose bark, powerlines, etc.
- Make sure the entire area is clear of falling hazards.

### Preparing to Cut

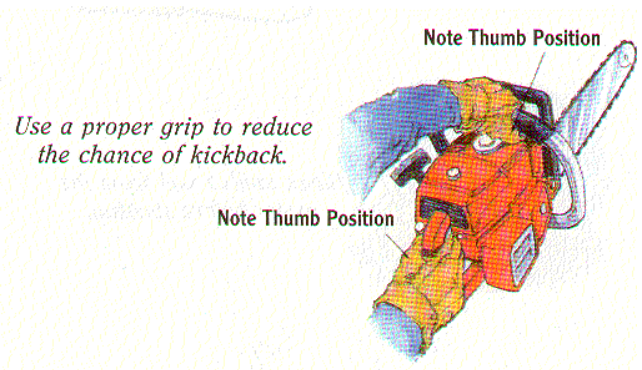
- To reduce the risk of kickbacks, keep a firm grip on the saw with your thumb underneath the handhold and

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avoid touching limbs or other objects with the tip of the bar.

- Obtain stable footing before cutting.
- Cut at shoulder height or below, whenever possible.



### Idling the Chainsaw

- Ensure the chain stops while idling.

### Keeping Co-Workers Safe

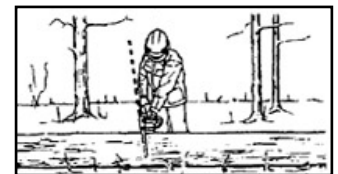
- Operators are responsible for ensuring that others will not be endangered by their activities and that all workers are clear of the hazard area before activities commence.
- The hazard area is defined as the area within a circle of anywhere the saw operator can reach with the saw.
- The hazard area will be extended where sliding or rolling trees or logs may cause additional hazards.

### Kickback

When the tip of the chainsaw's bar catches on material being cut, or another object, the bar of the saw can be thrown violently toward the operator – this is called kickback.

Following these rules can reduce kickback of the chainsaw:

- The chain should always be sharp.
- Make sure the chain oil pump is working properly. To test if the pump is working properly, hold the tip close to the ground and watch for oil splatter.
- Ensure the bar tip is well oiled.
- Ensure Proper Chain Brake & Rakers
- Avoid Contact with Objects
- Adjust for Tree Size
- Brace yourself
- Be Careful of Catching Your Leg



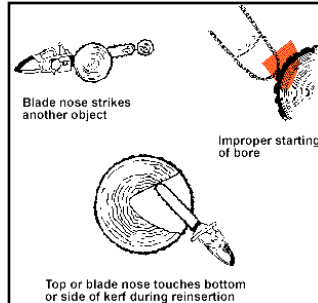
Hold the saw to the outside of your body

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### Ensure Proper Chain Brake & Rakers

- Utilize a saw with a fully functional chain brake.
- Ensure the chain is properly sharpened, including the height of the rakers. Obtain the best possible footing.
- Always maintain good saw/body posture and never cut with the saw directly in front of your body.



Avoid situations that can cause kickback.

### Bucking Logs

- Watch for pivot points, scissor logs, loaded trees or logs that may roll after they have been bucked and limbed, particularly in decks.
- Keep clear of loaders and skidders and try not to have your back towards them. They are bigger and have more blind spots than you do.
- Do not start bucking or limbing until chokers are removed.
- Never walk under a log that is being held up by a loader.
- Be sure all snags and dangerous trees are removed from around landing.
- Always be aware of your footing and keep caulks in good condition.



### Delimiting Trees

Many chain saw accidents occur during limbing operations. Examine each limb before cutting to be sure it will not bind the bar or cause the trunk to roll toward you.

#### Saw Position

Never cut a limb above the height of your shoulders.

#### Kickback

Ensure that most of the bar does the delimiting. Using the end of the bar creates kickback hazard.



#### Cutting Tree Limbs

- Always begin delimiting a tree from the base of the trunk. Cut the limbs on the top side of the tree first and always stand on the opposite side of the trunk from the limb being cut.
- Watch for limbs under stress from the weight of the log. These should be removed ahead of time so that the saw is not flipped towards you as the log is sawn off.
- Cutting branches resting on the ground may be necessary to clear the area as you work. Beware that the tree may sag or roll as a new branch is cut and cut accordingly.
- Avoid contacting other limbs with the backside or the nose of the chain.

#### Clearing Limbs

- When clearing limbs, put the saw down. Never hold a running saw with one hand and clear limbs with the other.

### Danger Trees

Only a certified and adequately trained faller must cut trees greater than 15 cm. See Safe Work Practices for *Danger Tree Awareness*.

### Maintenance

#### Introduction

Proper maintenance is essential to safe saw operation. This includes sharp saw teeth, correct chain tension, proper lubrication, and a well-tuned engine. For routine maintenance, follow the owner's manual recommendations.

- Saws are to be maintained in good running order, specifically the chain brake.
- Shut the saw off when cleaning it.
- Be aware of the hot exhaust system when servicing and filing.
- Fit handles on all files; do not carry files in your pocket.

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- Allow the chainsaw to cool down prior to performing any maintenance work.
- It is recommended that you wear leather gloves while performing maintenance.
- Grease the chain and the tip of the bar every 3 days or whenever the wheel does not turn smoothly.
- Clean the air filter after six (6) hours of use.
- The chain brake must be functional.
- Tighten the chain when sagging.
- Replace broken chain catchers immediately.
- Keep chain sharp and rakers within manufacturer recommendations.

### **Refueling**

- Mix fuel according to instructions in your owner's manual.
- Fuel and oil are to be carried in approved labeled containers only.
- Always refuel a chainsaw away from water sources.
- Never smoke while refueling the saw.
- Leaking gas caps with faulty vents must not be used.
- Always refuel in an open area that is at least 20 feet away from fires and lighted cigarettes.
- Do not refuel saw when engine is hot. Allow the saw to cool for 2 to 3 minutes before refuelling.



### **After Fuelling**

- After fuelling, ensure fuel and oil caps are well secured.
- Use proper funnels and spouts to prevent spills.
- Clean spilled fuel from the motor before starting saw.

### **Fire Prevention**

- Refuel only at a spot cleared to bare ground.
- It is recommended that you have a fire extinguisher or backpack sprayer nearby while refuelling.
- Wipe off any spilled gasoline before starting your saw.
- Do not start your saw at the refueling location