



Chainsaw Safety

Chainsaw operation is dangerous. Safe operation requires training, practice, and experience, as well as use of proper personal protective equipment. These tips will help keep you safe when operating a chainsaw.



Personal Protective Equipment

- Baggy clothing or items that could become entangled in the saw (belts, drawstrings, long hair, long beards) should be avoided or properly secured.
- Proper equipment includes hardhats, hearing protection, eye protection, gloves, boots, and appropriate safety chaps.
- PPE should be used every time, without exception.

Planning and Preparation

- Size up the job to ensure proper saws and tools are utilized.
- Ensure employees are trained on basic chainsaw operations and understand safety requirements and policies, including permitted and prohibited activities.
- Review and follow the manufacturer's instructions for operation and maintenance.
- Carefully consider any work above ground level, including work requiring ladders and adequate fall protection.
- Inspect triggers, bars, chains (teeth and tension), chain brakes, and all fluids prior to use (do not use a saw if it is damaged or improperly adjusted).
- Ensure proper traffic and safety controls are in place when cutting in or near a roadway.
- Plan where objects will fall and ensure the area is free of other hazards or workers.



When Operating and Cutting

- Do not "drop start" a saw – only use methods as provided by the manufacturer.
 - Always keep two hands on the saw.
 - Always engage the chain brake when moving, climbing, or setting down the saw.
 - Avoid reaching across the bar and chain.
 - Be aware of the potential for saw kickback – avoid cutting with the top of the chain or nose of the bar.
 - Avoid cutting that will create tension on the bar or chain and never cut directly overhead.
- Do not make any adjustments while the saw is running, even if the chain brake is engaged.



For additional information, see the links and resources below

- Texas Department of Insurance Division of Workers' Compensation [Chainsaw Safety](#) and [Tree Trimming](#)
- Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Chainsaw [Fact Sheet](#)
- U.S. Agricultural Safety & Health Center Chainsaw Safety [Video 1](#), [Video 2](#)

Other Related Resources Available

- TML Risk Pool – [Groundskeeping TIPS Sheet](#)
- TML Risk Pool [Online Learning Center](#) – Chainsaw Safety
- TML Risk Pool [Media Library](#) Chainsaw Safety Videos - #112, #36, #680, #117