

SAFE Work Practice

Chain Saws

CSAM # 2



A chain saw is a power driven tool designed to cut wood with a saw chain and consisting of an integrated compact unit of handles, power source, and cutting attachment. If not used properly they can cause very serious injuries, not only to the operator, but to fellow workers.

Hazards: -cuts and amputations, high noise resulting in hearing loss, contusions, flying objects/particles, chain kickback, fire and repetitive strain injuries

Do

- Make sure the chain saw is equipped with a safety chain, chain brake and chain catcher.
- Wear all PPE, including gloves, safety eyewear, hearing protection, etc.
- Start the saw when secured on the ground.
- Use two hands to operate the saw.
- Carry chain saw with bar to rear.

Do Not

- Stand directly behind a saw while cutting.
- Refuel a chain saw with the engine running or the engine and muffler still hot.
- Carry a saw for more than a short distance with the engine running.
- Leave a running chain saw unattended.
- Do not start a chain saw when it is resting against any part of your body.

General Safe Work Practices

1. Ensure that each worker is instructed in the proper use of chain saws as well as the hazards involved ensuring that each worker understands how the chain saws safety devices function and how to keep them in optimum working order.
2. Ensure that equipment is operated and maintained in accordance with the manufacturers specifications; and includes a mechanism that minimizes the risk of injury from kickback.
3. Use only chain saws that have been manufactured and maintained according to the CSA Standard Z62.1-03 "Chain Saws" and that they are equipped with a safety chain and chain brake.
4. Inspect the chain saw and ensure it is in good operating condition and is equipped with all guards and safety devices.
5. Inspect the saw chain to ensure it is properly lubricated and is sharp. Sharpen and lubricate, as needed.
6. Ensure workers are wearing all appropriate PPE for the task, such as gloves, safety headwear, eyewear and face shield, footwear, hearing protection, safety pants/chaps, etc.
7. Ensure no one in the surrounding area will be put at risk when you are using the saw.
8. Ensure that chain is clear of obstructions before starting.
9. Engage the chain brake before starting the chain saw.
10. Hold the saw firmly on the ground. Point the chain away from your body and nearby obstructions. Use a quick, sharp motion on the starter cord.
11. Ensure that you have secure footing and that your stance is well balanced.

Regulatory Reference:

Manitoba Regulation 217/2006 Part 16 - Machines, Tools and Robots

Additional Standards: CAN/CSA Standard-Z62.1-03, *Chain Saws*

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