

SAFE WORK PROCEDURE

CHAINSAW OPERATION

Written By: Alex Ethier	Approved By: Alex Ethier	Date Created: January 21, 2008	Date of Last Revision: January 21, 2008
<i>This task may only be performed by trained personnel.</i>			
Hazards Present:	Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) or Devices Required:	Additional Training Requirements:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cuts/Lacerations • Flying Debris • Loss of Hearing • Flammable Materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSA Approved Footwear • CSA Approved Hardhat • CSA Approved Gloves • CSA Approved Eye/Face Protection • CSA Approved Hearing Protection • Close-fitting Clothing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WHMIS 	
Safe Work Procedure:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure worker is properly trained BEFORE attempting to do any work with a chainsaw. 2. Workers using chainsaw must also read and understand the operator's manual BEFORE doing any work with the chainsaw. 3. Thoroughly inspect the chainsaw BEFORE each use for defective or dull chain, chain tension, fluid levels and proper lubrication. 4. ALWAYS put on ALL required PPE PRIOR to starting the chainsaw. 5. ALWAYS use both hands when starting the chainsaw, one to hold the saw and the other to pull the starter rope. Grip the top handle of the saw firmly and pull the starter rope quickly. It is not a safe practice to start a chainsaw while holding it in mid-air with one hand. 6. ALWAYS start it on the ground or on a stable, clear surface. 7. NEVER force a chainsaw through a cut. If it is properly sharpened and adjusted, it will cut almost by itself (Keep in mind that the hardness of the wood will have a major effect on how quickly it cuts). 8. ALWAYS be watchful for blade-pinching situations and plan accordingly. Cut branches at the base of the blade...Do NOT saw with the tip of the blade. 9. USE a high chain speed when reinserting the blade in a cut or removing it from a cut. 10. KEEP the saw teeth sharp so they will cut, dull teeth are more likely to cause a kickback. 11. ALWAYS cut below shoulder height, otherwise the saw is difficult to control and is too close to your face. 12. ALWAYS avoid making cuts with the saw between your legs. ALWAYS cut with the saw to the outside of your legs. 13. DON'T stand on a log and saw between your feet. 14. ALWAYS stand on one side of the limb you are to cut...never straddle it. 15. ALWAYS keep in mind where the chain will go if it breaks. NEVER position yourself or other people in line with the chain. 16. KEEP the chain out of the dirt. Debris will fly, the teeth will be dulled and the chain life shortened considerably. 			
<p><i>If an emergency situation occurs while conducting this task, or there is an equipment malfunction, engage emergency procedures and/or follow the lock-out procedure.</i></p> <p>REPORT ANY HAZARDOUS SITUATIONS TO YOUR SUPERVISOR</p>			
Guidance Documents / Standards / Applicable Legislation / Other:		EMERGENCY PROCEDURES <i>(if incident occurs, follow these procedures)</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If injury occurs...contact 911 • Administer First Aid/CPR as required 	

This Safe Work Procedure will be reviewed any time the task, equipment, or materials change and at a minimum every three years.