

SAFE WORK PRACTICES

CHAIN SAWS

**This information does not take precedence over OH&S. All employees should be familiar with the Saskatchewan Employment Act and the OH&S Regulations.*

General: Chain saws are used in many jobs in construction. Since this tool was primarily meant for use in the logging industry, it can be unfamiliar to some workers. Know your equipment. Learn the operation, application and limitations as well as the specific and potential hazards of the equipment before operating it. Refer to the operating manual if necessary. ***You must be orientated by your supervisor before using this tool.***

1. Wear adequate PPE and keep observers at a safe distance from the work area. Minimum PPE for this equipment is eye, hearing and foot protection. Check the MSDS before starting work for material-specific hazards that could require other PPE.
2. Fueling of the saw must be done in a well ventilated area and not while the saw is running or hot.
3. An approved safety container must be used to contain the fuel used along with a proper spout or funnel for pouring.
4. The correct methods of starting, holding, carrying or storing and use of the saw (as directed by the manufacturer) must be used.
5. Before the saw is used to make any cuts, you must make sure that the chain brake is functioning properly and adequately stops the chain.
6. The chain must be sharp, have correct tension and be adequately lubricated.
7. Maintenance must be done according to the manufacturer's specifications.
8. If you are using an electric chain saw, ensure all cords are clear of the cutting area before starting a cut.
9. Before cutting, check the stock for foreign objects or any other obstructions which could cause the saw to "kick back". Do not use the saw to cut above shoulder height.
10. When carrying/transporting a chain saw, the chain bar must be toward the back and the motor shut off.
11. When you are finished with the saw, make sure that it is stored in a safe and secure location.