



## Chainsaw Safety Quick Reference

Note: Operation of a chainsaw is inherently hazardous. Potential for injury can be minimized by use of proper personal protective equipment (PPE) and safe operating procedures. This reference addresses OSHA requirements for PPE and safe operating procedures for chainsaw work. Also refer to appropriate program safety manuals for additional information.

Supervisors are responsible for implementation, administration, and enforcement of this policy.

**Policy:** Employees and supervisors must be trained in the safe operation and maintenance of chain saws. For all other operations involving use of chainsaws, it is strongly recommended that at least two people in the crew be knowledgeable in First Aid/CPR. Employees must follow all manufacturer and NCARNG safety procedures. All appropriate PPE must be used by employees operating chainsaws, including hard hat/ACH; chaps; and eye, face, foot, hand and hearing protection.

**Equipment:** All chain saws placed in service after February 1995 must meet all requirements of ANSI B175.1-1991. Chain saws must be equipped with at least two separate anti-kick back features. Chain brake, low kick back chain, reduced kick back bar, or nose guard are among current devices available.

### **Required PPE:**

- *Chaps* - Leg protection apparel constructed of cut resistant material.
- *Foot Protection* - Tree crew employees must conform to OSHA logging standard requirements regarding safety footwear.
- *Hearing Protection* - Any approved muff, plug or semi-aural protectors that can be properly worn with other required PPE.
- *Face Shield* - Wire mesh or clear plastic designed for impact protection.
- *Safety Glasses* - Must have side shields and be designed for impact protection.
- *Hand Protection* - Appropriate gloves should be worn, when possible.

### **Fueling and Starting:**

- Store and carry gasoline in approved safety cans.
- Use a funnel or flexible hose fitted to the container when fueling saws.
- Clear the area around fueling site of flammable material.
- Do not fuel saw with engine running or start the saw in the same spot where it is fueled.
- Allow engine to cool before refueling.
- After fueling wipe chain saw clean before restarting.

- Keep a fire extinguisher available when refueling.
- Place saw on the ground or other firm surface to start. Make sure chain cannot contact ground or other objects.

### **General Chainsaw Safety**

- Never work alone with a chain saw.
- Never remove nose guard or chain brake.
- Chain brake must be engaged while starting.
- Keep engine free of saw dust.
- Clear away brush, rocks, fencing, etc. in the work area which might hinder movement.
- Always establish good footing.
- Keep personnel clear from areas of falling trees or rolling logs.
- Be alert for nails, wire, metal taps, etc. in trees.
- Keep cutting speed under control to avoid cutting too deep or at an improper angle.
- When moving with a saw, it should be grasped firmly in one hand and carried at the side with bar pointing backwards. Special caution is necessary when the engine is running. Chain brake should be engaged during transport.
- Look to the side before turning around. Face and hearing protection and engine noise will limit the operator's ability to know if someone is close.
- Stop the saw when doubtful about safety.
- Secured racks, boxes, bar holsters or sheathing, or other means must be used for transporting chain saws.
- A First Aid kit must be immediately available.