

SEE-MORE SAFETY SAYS...



Chain Saws

The following chain saw requirements are from the logging industry section of the general industry regulations. These are not OSHA requirements for the construction industry but are good “best practices” for chain saw use and safety.

Chain saw requirements

Each chain saw must be equipped with a chain brake, and a protective device to minimize kickback. No kickback device can be removed or otherwise disabled.

Each chain saw must be equipped with a continuous pressure throttle control, which will stop the chain when pressure is released.

The saw must be operated and adjusted in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions.

Fuel your chain saw at least 10 feet from any open flame or other source of ignition. Start your chain saw at least 10 feet from the fueling area.

Pre-operational inspection

You must inspect your chain saw before initial use during each workshift. At a minimum a good chain saw inspection will include:

- ⇒ Handles and guards – to ensure they are sound, tightfitting, properly shaped, free of sharp edges, and in place.
- ⇒ Controls – to assure proper function.
- ⇒ Chains – to assure proper adjustment.
- ⇒ Mufflers – to assure they are operational and in place.



Operational checks

You must use your chain saw only for the purpose for which it was designed.

Dull chain cutting edges should be sharpened in accordance with the manufacturer’s specifications.

Start a chain saw on the ground or other firmly supported area and with the chain brake engaged. **Drop starting a chain saw is prohibited.**

You must: (1) be certain of footing before starting to cut, (2) use the saw in a position or at a distance that ensures proper balance and secure footing, and (3) clear away brush or other potential obstacles which might interfere with cutting.

Never use the chain saw to cut overhead.

Carry the chain saw so as to avoid operator contact with the cutting chain or hot muffler.

Chain saws are dangerous. However, with common sense and following the above safety regulations chain saw use can be safe.

