

## Chipper Machines

Chipper machines cut tree limbs into small wood chips. Hazards arise when workers get too close to, or make contact with, the chipper. Contact with chipper's spinning blades, discs, or knives may result in amputation or death. Workers may also be injured by material thrown from the machine.

### Guide for Discussion

#### Hazards

- Workers making contact with or being pulled into the chipper.
- Hearing loss.
- Face, eye, head, or hand injuries.

#### Proper use:

- **Never** break the "plane" in front of the chipper feed with your hands or arm.
- **Never** put your foot or leg on the chipper apron. You may lose your balance and be dragged into the chipper blades.
- **Never** open the access panel when the chipper is running.
- Ensure all ropes and climbing lines are kept away from the chipper, so they are not caught in the branches.
- Do not wear loose-fitting clothing around a chipper.
- Use earplugs, safety glasses, hard hats, and gloves.
- Workers should be trained on the safe operation of chipper machines. Always supervise new workers using a chipper to ensure that they work safely and never endanger themselves or others.
- Prevent detached trailer chippers from rolling or sliding on slopes by chocking the trailer wheels.
- Maintain a safe distance (i.e., two tree or log lengths) between chipper operations and other work/workers.
- Be aware of the direction of the material discharge and keep out of its path.
- When servicing and/or maintaining chipping equipment ("unjamming") use a lockout/tagout system to ensure that the equipment is de-energized.

**Additional Discussion Notes** To learn more about Lockout/Tagout systems, attend CIRMA's *Lockout/Tagout Workshop*.

#### Remember

**Attendees** \_\_\_\_\_

Questions? Ask your Supervisor or CIRMA Risk Management Consultant.