

Chain Saws

Instructor Note: Review Municipal policy on always wearing a hard hat, ear plugs, safety glasses or goggles, leg protection, and safety shoes when using a chain saw.

Chain saws are often used by municipal workers to trim trees or remove fallen trees and limbs after a storm. Chain saws are a specialty tool that have their own special hazards. Before you use, review the guidelines below:

Guide for Discussion

Before Operations

- Always review operator instructions before you use a chain saw.
- Wear snug fitting clothing; don't wear jewelry.
- Use proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE, including chaps.
- Be sure to wear earplugs especially if you plan to cut for a long period of time.
- Always check for defects in the saw. Replace all defective parts before operating the tool.
- Don't use a saw with a dull chain.
- Check the item to be cut for nails, wire, and any other imbedded metal items.
- Before cutting, plan a path of retreat.
- Make sure chain saw is sharp and lubricating reservoir is full.
- Start saw 10 feet from refueling area.
- Start chain saw on ground on a firm support. Don't drop start it.

During Cutting

- When cutting, keep the saw away from your body.
- Never cut anything directly overhead.
- Be wary of materials to be cut that may be under tension.
- Be careful to avoid pinching the blade or guide bar.
- As the material begins to fall, turn off the saw and move away quickly.
- Watch for a rebound.
- Carry the saw only when it is shut off or chainbrake is on.

After Cutting

- Allow the saw to cool before refueling.
- Don't operate the saw near your refueling area.
- Check the operator instructions for any special after-operations maintenance instructions.

Additional Discussion Notes

Remember Chain saws are a dangerous tool and can seriously injure a worker when improperly used. Use common sense and the basic rules we discussed for their safe operation.

Attendees _____