

# PLAYING IT **SAFE**

Be safe and healthy on the job with these helpful tips provided by  
**Crendon Insurance Brokers Ltd**

## Chain Saw Safety

*Exercise extreme caution on the job*

Health and Safety Executive (HSE) data suggests that most fatal and major injuries involve chainsaw operators taking shortcuts and not following good practice guidance. Most of these injuries could have been prevented. Here's how.

### Before Operation:

- Read the instruction manual and receive the proper training before operating the machinery.
- Inspect the equipment before use.
  - Note that the safety guards are in working order and are not damaged.
  - Replace any parts that are broken or damaged.
- Ensure there is someone within earshot in case of an emergency.
- To get a feel for how the machine operates, first practise using it on small logs.
- Clear the area of stones, debris and rubbish.
- Sharpen the blade if necessary.
- Examine the elements.
  - Notice the direction of the wind to determine how to cut the tree.
  - Make sure you are standing in a dry area with no risk of slipping.
- Plan your move away from the tree.
  - You will need at least 7.5 metres to avoid injury.

- Wear long trousers, long-sleeved shirts, eye protection (goggles or safety glasses), ear protection (earplugs or ear muffs), non-slip gloves, chaps and steel toe-capped boots with non-slip soles. A hard hat may also be required.
- Pull back long hair and remove hanging jewellery that could get caught in the equipment.

### During Use:

- Start the saw by placing it between your knees or resting it on the ground with the chain away from any obstacles.
- Position your body a safe distance away from the blades.
- Hold the tool with both hands: your right hand on the rear handle and trigger, and your left hand grasping the front handle bar.
- Remove your hand from the trigger between cuts.
- Turn off the engine before setting the saw on the ground.
- Be alert and wary of kickbacks.
  - Kickback occurs when the guide bar hits an object and projects the saw back, often at the user.
  - It happens when hitting a knot in the wood, operating too slowly, twisting the saw, having a loose chain, or not using the proper grip.
  - In order to prevent kickback injuries, only use a chainsaw with an anti-kickback chain.



### Don't Speed Through the Job!

Driving a race car is not even as dangerous as operating a chain saw. In fact, it is five times more hazardous to use this powerful tool because of the potential for kickback, burning, electrocution and losing control. As a result, be alert and cautious while operating a chain saw.

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