

LOSS CONTROL BULLETIN

Chainsaw Safety

Fact: Each year, approximately 36,000 people are treated in hospital emergency departments for chain saw-related injuries.

A chain saw is a powerful tool that can make life easier for many farmers; however, chain saws can pose a great danger if not used appropriately. Failure to properly use a chain saw can result in serious injury or even death.

Before Starting

- Make sure all parts are functioning properly and adjusted to the manufacturer's standards. Check controls, chain tension, bolts and handles.
- The lubrication reservoir should be full, and the chain should be sharp.
- Make sure the chain's brake is engaged before attempting to start the saw.
- Always start the saw at least 10 feet away from the fueling area.
- Never drop start the tool. Always start it on the ground or another firm spot.

Fueling

- Do not smoke during fueling.
- The fuel container must be metal or plastic and not exceed five gallons.
- The saw should not be running or hot when attempting to fuel it.
- A funnel should be used when pouring fuel into the saw.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Do not wear loose-fitting clothing.
- The following protection should be worn:
 - Head Protection
 - Hearing Protection
 - Eye/Face Protection
 - Leg Protection
 - Foot Protection
 - Hand Protection

Safety Tips

- Before you begin to cut, make sure that all dirt, debris, rocks, nails and other metal is removed from the saw's cutting path.
- The saw should be shut off and disengaged when carrying it over rough or uneven land.
- Keep both hands on the handle of the chain saw.
- Do not overreach. It is difficult to control a saw in awkward positions.
- Make sure you have stable footing before you begin to saw something.

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FAMILY OF COMPANIES

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- Make sure the wood is stabilized before cutting.
- Always make cuts with the blade angled away from your body.
- Never remove or turn off safety mechanisms.
- Make sure the tree limbs or tree trunk will not bind against the saw.
- Avoid cutting tree limbs under tension, as they can spring out when cut.
- Do not cut with the tip of the saw. This will help prevent a kick-back. If the chain saw has a tip guard, keep it in place at all times.

Chain saws are powerful tools that can cause serious injury to the operator. The user should carefully read and understand the owner's manual prior to operating the tool. Most chain saw injuries can be prevented by taking proper safety precautions.



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