

KEYWORDS: CHAINSAWS; TOOLS; SAW

10-15 MINUTES

# Topic: Chainsaws



## IDEAS FOR YOUR TALK:

- People remember facts better when they're interactive and visual: use Chainsaws to illustrate or demonstrate your risk statements.
- People remember stories better than raw facts: think of a personal story that you can share.
- People structure thoughts to remember them: think of risks or defects that can occur with each component of Chainsaws.
- YouTube is another good source of information and offers many safety videos and demonstrations. Select only videos that are high-quality.

## Explain dangers:

Kickback can occur when the chain becomes snagged and suddenly stops moving. The change in momentum causes the chainsaw to move in the opposite direction, towards the operator. The chain runs at very high speeds, and the cutting blade is extremely sharp. Each tooth is designed to remove a 1/4-inch chip of material. Chainsaws are extremely loud, and parts can become very hot.

Chainsaws produce a lot of vibration, both from the engine and from the process of cutting. Chainsaws with combustible engines produce toxic exhaust fumes. The gasoline-oil mixture can catch on fire if spilled while filling a hot engine.

## Demonstrate:

Show workers the proper way to start the chainsaw and to hold it while cutting.

## 1. SUGGESTED ENGAGEMENT QUESTIONS:

- Who has used Chainsaws on this job?
- What is the main risk involved in using Chainsaws?
- Has anyone heard of an incident or accident involving Chainsaws?

## 2. TALKING POINTS:

### PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- Use gWear eye protection that is CSA or ANSI approved. A face shield may be required.
- Never wear loose clothing, unbuttoned jackets, flared sleeves and cuffs, scarves, tie strings, cords, chains, jewelry, etc. when operating a chainsaw.

### MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES

- Inspect the chainsaw before using it. Make sure that the guide bar is tight, the chain is snug, the machine is lubricated, and the teeth are sharp. Check the drive links, sprockets, chain catch, and cutters for damage. Run the saw at half throttle and apply the chain brake to make sure it works properly.
- Never alter any of the safety features such as the chain brake, throttle trigger interlock, ramped depth gauges, etc.

### OPERATING PROCEDURES

- During start-up, keep everyone at least six feet away, place the chainsaw on solid ground, and secure it with one foot in the rear handle. Grasp the top handle with one hand, apply the chain brake, and set the throttle lock. Pull the recoil handle towards your chest.
- Hold the saw firmly with both hands and keep your feet firmly planted before you start to cut. Stand to the left of the saw and hold your left arm straight. Activate the throttle with your right hand. (Reverse for left-handed saws.)
- To prevent kickback, cut only one thing at a time. Use the bumper spike to rest the chainsaw on top of what you're cutting and allow the sharp teeth of the chain and the power of the engine to do the cutting. Don't force it.
- Bring the saw to full operating speed before starting the cut. If you feel resistance or you need to apply extra pressure in order to cut, the chain may be dull. Using a dull chain is not only a safety hazard, but it also increases your risk of developing hand-arm vibration syndrome (HAVS).

## 3. CLOSING QUESTIONS:

- Do you know of any damaged Chainsaws?
- Do you have questions on this subject, inspection or safe use?
- Are you aware of a risk on this jobsite that shouldn't be?



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