

Over 30,000 people are injured every year from incidents that occurred when they were using chainsaws. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions for safe operation and maintenance.

- Before operating any chainsaw, take the time to plan ahead to ensure the work area is secure and the chainsaw is in good operating condition.

Chainsaw operators must wear personal protective equipment while working. PPE recommendations include:

- Head protection, such as a hard hat
- Hearing protection, like ear plugs or ear muffs
- Safety glasses with side shields or safety goggles
- Leg protection, such as chaps
- Face shield
- Work gloves, with enhanced gripping surface
- Protective footwear, like boots with steel toes
- High-visibility safety apparel, like a safety vest



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Safety precautions to remember when operating a chainsaw:

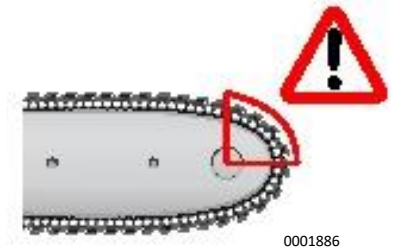
- Never walk around with a chainsaw in the operating mode, always switch off the power source. Always turn the chainsaw off before setting it down.
- Do not attempt to cut anything other than wood with a chainsaw.
- Cut only one piece of wood at a time, never two branches at once.



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- Make sure the chain brake is functioning.
- Keep oil and fuels off the handles.
- Do not use a chainsaw to cut directly overhead.
- Run the saw at full power when cutting.
- Keep both hands on the handles and maintain secure footing.

- Kickback, a common hazard when using a chainsaw, occurs when the teeth on the chain catch on a solid object as they rotate around the tip of the blade, which forces the blade back towards the operator unexpectedly.



- Pinching occurs when the chainsaw becomes stuck and stalls while you are cutting. There are cutting techniques and tools, like wedges, that can be used to help prevent pinching.
 - **If the chainsaw bar does get pinched, turn off the engine** first before assessing the situation to determine the best way to relieve pressure to dislodge the chainsaw.
- Kickback can also happen when the bar is pinched, known as pinch kickback. If the bar is pinched on the top of the bar it will be pushed back into the operator. If it is pinched on the bottom of the bar it pulls the saw forward and the reaction can cause the operator to fall on the saw.

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