

Chain Saw Safety

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Basic chain saw precautions

- Safety tips
 - Prepare yourself
 - Proper clothing/protection (long trousers, eye and ear protection, steel-toed shoes, etc.) and equipment can reduce injury
 - Be physically fit for strenuous activity
 - Saw selection
 - Light weight (8 to 12in guide bar)
 - Light work, small branches, small trees 6 to 10in
 - Midweight (14 to 20in guide bar)
 - Small trees 12 to 18 in
 - Heavy weight (>20in guide bar)
 - Professional use
 - Prepare the saw
 - Sharp chain (remember the chain is sharp - BE CAREFULL)
 - Correct chain tension (improves chain life and safer cutting)
 - Clean air filter, Good spark plug (makes work easier and safer)
 - Don't forget to check the oil (it's to late once on site and discover you forgot the chain oil)
 - Starting and Operating Techniques
 - Start with saw on firm ground
 - Chain out of gear and free of obstacles
 - Right foot in loop of rear handle
 - Left hand on upper handle
 - Pull starter rope with right hand

Basic chain saw precautions

– Felling the tree

- Examine the tree, clear the area of people, vehicles, branches and debris
- Power lines are not good – try not to fell the tree into the power line! If your not sure don't do it.
- Try not to cut the tree so that it hangs in another tree – this is really not safe!
- Plan a safe, unobstructed path of retreat before starting the cut. You don't always know which direction the tree will fall.
- If you get the saw stuck wedges can be used to free the saw. Plastic wedges are safer than metal (will not damage the saw). Wedges have been known to pop out of trees – **Be carefull.**

Basic chain saw precautions

– Limbing the Tree

- Whenever possible, keep the tree limb or similar barrier between yourself and the saw blade
- When cutting large limbs stand on the uphill side because the log may roll.

– Kick Back Safety Tips

- The best defense against kickback is to keep the tip guard on the chain saw
 - Cut branches at the base of the blade
 - **Don't** saw with the tip of the blade
 - Keep the saw sharp - dull teeth are more likely to cause kickback
- REF: <http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/pubs/ageng/safety/ae1025w.htm>