



**Chain saws are powerful tools to help you in landscaping work or cleaning up after storm damage—but they can cause deadly injuries.**

- Never work alone because of the possibility of serious injury.
- Be wary of overhead or downed power lines—ALWAYS ASSUME THEY ARE ENERGIZED!
- Never work aloft, whether in a tree or bucket truck, unless you have had specialized training and use proper fall protection.

**Always wear proper personal protective equipment (PPE), including:**

- Head, face, and hearing protection;
- Leather or cotton gloves plus chaps or chain saw-protective pants; *and*
- Chain saw protective work boots with steel toes.

**Know your saw—read the owner’s manual before you use it.**

- Inspect the saw before each use.
- Be sure the chain is sharp to prevent binding.
- Be sure the saw has these safety features that are working properly.
  - Chain brake
  - Chain saw kickback device
  - Safety throttle switch
- Choose the proper size saw for the job.

**Protect yourself from kickback injury, which can occur if the saw binds.**

- Avoid cutting with the tip or upper quarter of the bar.
- Keep both hands on the saw when cutting.
- Keep your left elbow stiff.
- Stand to one side so you won’t be hit if the saw does kick back.
- Never try to cut something above shoulder height—you won’t have sufficient control.

**Follow these safety practices as well:**

- Refuel at least 10 feet from any open flame.
- Start the saw at least 10 feet away from the refueling area.
- Always start the chain saw on the ground or other firm support.
- Shut off the saw or engage the chain brake when carrying the saw.

