



Eye on Safety

Home Chainsaw Safety

In the wake of recent winter weather, and anticipating springtime cleanup of our own property, the sound of chainsaws is in the air! Whether on the job, on the farm, or in the yard it only takes seconds to have a serious injury or fatality (SIF). There are many basic steps we can take to reduce the risk.

Prepare yourself and your saw for safe work:

- Take the time to review the saw manufacturer's operating instructions in the manual or online; most of the time, a quick internet search will get you to those resources.
- Inspect the saw to ensure the chain brake engages properly, there are no fuel leaks, the bar & chain are tensioned correctly, chain catcher is in place, handles are secured.
- Use a properly sharpened chain. It will make cutting easier, but it is safer because it reduces reaction forces, reduces your time exposed to the hazard, and reduces operator fatigue.
- Obtain, inspect, and actually USE all the required personal protective equipment (PPE), including protective chainsaw leg chaps, leather boots with safety toes, gloves, hard hat, face and eye protection, and hearing protection.

While you work:

- Never work alone, have a partner watch your back and alert you to hazards you may not see while focused on the work.
- If you don't have the experience or equipment to do the job safely....don't do it. Ego or over-confidence in either can cause bad outcomes.
- Never cut over your head and NEVER cut while standing on a ladder.
- Engage the chain brake when walking or repositioning with a running saw.
- Let gas engines cool for 15 minutes before refueling.

Additional home chainsaw safety information from the Cooperative Ag Extension Foundation is available [here](#).



Learn more about the Secretary's Office of Safety [here](#) or by scanning the QR code below.

