

CHAINSAW SAFE WORK PROCEDURE

DO NOT use a chainsaw unless you have been instructed on its safe use and operation and have been given permission

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT



Helmet with a visor must be worn.



Hearing Protection must be worn



Chainsaw chaps must be worn.



Sturdy footwear must be worn at all times.

DO

- ✓ Familiarise yourself with Manufacturer's guidelines and owner's manual and any limitations on the use of chainsaws.
- ✓ Always provide supervision and competency assessments for intended operators of any machinery.
- ✓ Retain written evidence of staff inductions, supervision, training and competency.
- ✓ Check your surrounding area.
- ✓ Ensure you have a clear work area and stable footing.
- ✓ Shut the chainsaw off before carrying it. Carry it by the front hand with bar to the rear.

PRE-OPERATIONAL SAFETY CHECKS

- ✓ Know your capabilities. You must be trained, or under supervision of a trained person before operating machinery.
- ✓ The appropriate Personal Protective Equipment must be worn.
- ✓ Chainsaws must be fitted with a safety mitt or hand guard.
- ✓ Chainsaws must be well maintained. Check oil, nuts and bolts are secure. Check chain-brake and lubrication systems are working properly.
- ✓ Check the high-tension lead does not show signs of wear.
- ✓ Keep the chain oiled, correctly tensioned, sharpened and correct depth gauge height.
- ✓ Know and understand cutting techniques and how to carry these out safely.
- ✓ Know and understand kickback and the steps that should be taken to prevent this occurring.
- ✓ Do not operate a chainsaw if you are under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- ✓ Do not operate a chainsaw if you are fatigued. You must remain alert at all times.

OPERATIONAL SAFETY CHECKS

- ✓ Never drop start a chainsaw. Use the Cold Start or Warm Start method. Start the chainsaw away from you.
- ✓ Maintain control of the chainsaw. Keep your feet firmly planted.
- ✓ Do not operate a chainsaw above shoulder height.

- ✓ Only cut wood with chainsaw- it is not designed for anything else.
- ✓ Be alert of all persons or risks around you when operating the chainsaw.
- ✓ When felling trees, ensure the area is clear of all persons and electrical wires.
- ✓ When refuelling the chainsaw, do not smoke and ensure the correct fuel mix is used.

ENDING OPERATIONS AND CLEANING UP

- ✓ Shut down the machine completely before carrying it.
- ✓ Clean the chainsaw and check the guide bar. Ensure all components are in place.

POTENTIAL RISKS AND INJURIES

- ⓘ Eye & Face injuries.
- ⓘ Hearing Loss, Tinnitus etc.
- ⓘ Trapping risks.
- ⓘ Crushing risks.
- ⓘ Cuts and abrasions.
- ⓘ Electric shock.
- ⓘ Burns and Scolds.
- ⓘ Loss of Limbs.
- ⓘ Exhaust Fumes.
- ⓘ Vibration Disease.

DON'T

- ✗ Do not use faulty equipment. Immediately report suspect equipment.
- ✗ Do not use a machine if safety devices have been removed, or if they are damaged.
- ✗ Do not leave inexperienced operators unsupervised until competency is achieved.

This does not necessarily cover all possible risks associated with this equipment and should be used in conjunction with other references. It is designed as a guide to be used to compliment training and as a reminder to users prior to equipment use.

This information is based on material published in manufacturers operating guides and guidelines.