



# Tailgate Safety Talk

*Information You Can Use to Prevent Accidents & Injuries*

## Chain Saw Quick Reminders

### BEFORE STARTING WORK:

- Don't allow dirt, fuel, or sawdust to build up on the engine or the outside of the saw.
- Keep all screws and fasteners tight. Never operate a chain saw that's damaged, improperly adjusted, or is not completely and securely assembled.
- Be sure the saw's chain stops moving when the throttle trigger is released and the engine idles.
- Keep the handles dry, clean, and free of oil or fuel mixture.
- Wear close fitting and protective clothing including a mesh visor, safety goggles/glasses, gloves, hearing protection, hard hat, and chaps.
- Start your saw without help. Hold it firmly on the ground or on a stump. Don't start it on your leg or knee!
- Always shut off the engine before refueling. Keep the tank full to avoid running out of fuel in the middle of the cut.
- Open the fuel cap slowly to release any pressure which may have formed in the fuel tank.
- Wipe spilled fuel from the saw or be certain it has dried thoroughly before restarting. Move away from the fueling spot to avoid fire hazards.

### DURING OPERATION:

- Proper footing is important. Don't cut in awkward positions which are off-balance. Hold the saw firmly with both hands, with your thumbs and fingers encircling the chain saw handles.
- When cutting a limb under tension, be alert for anything which might snap back. Never attempt to cut brush or small saplings because they will tend to catch the saw and whip it back toward you.
- Guard against kickback. This is one of the main sources of injuries when using a chain saw. Kickback happens when the chain on the top of the guide bar becomes pinched in a saw cut.
- Kickback can also happen if the chain comes into contact with another branch or log. A dull or loose chain or running the engine slowly may also result in kickback.
- Some examples on anti-kickback devices on saws you may use include an automatic chain brake, low kickback chain, or a kickback bar.

### AFTER THE WORK IS DONE:

- Always shut off the engine when moving to another location. Carry the saw with the guide bar and saw pointed to the rear and muffler away from your body.
- Maintenance and proper storage of chain saws is important to keep them in good operating condition.
- Keep the chain, bar, and sprocket drive clean. Replace worn sprockets or chains.
- Keep the chain sharp. You can spot a dull chain when easy-to-cut wood becomes hard to cut and burn marks appear on the wood.
- Keep the chain at proper tension.
- Tighten all nuts, bolts, and screws except the carburetor adjustment screw after each and every use.
- Keep the spark plug and wire connections tight and clean.
- Store chain saws in a dry location away from other tools.

*Users of this tailgate talk are advised to determine the suitability of the information as it applies to local situations and work practices and its conformance with applicable laws and regulations.*