



# Tailgate Safety Talk

## *Information You Can Use to Prevent Accidents & Injuries*

### Chain Saw Safety

*Some chain saw safety tips from the American Red Cross:*

Personal Protective Equipment must include: Hard hat system consisting of head, face, and hearing protection, leather gloves and chain saw protective chaps.

To reduce the risk of kickback injury: Avoid contact between the bar tip and any object. Hold the saw firmly with both hands. Don't over-reach. Don't cut above shoulder height. Check the chain brake frequently. Follow sharpening and maintenance instructions.

Make sure that these safety features are working: Chain brake, chain catcher, throttle switch, on/off switch, spark arrester. Make sure the carburetor is properly adjusted. A misadjusted carburetor will cause stalling or poor performance and could cause an injury.

Have several sharpened chains available to match your saw and bar. You can immediately dull a saw chain by hitting the ground with the tip, cutting dirty wood or hitting a rock or nails. It is very tiring to cut with a dull chain and the extra pressure you apply to the chain saw to cut faster will only increase your chance of an injury.

Look out for hazards:

- Broken or hanging branches, attached vines, or a dead tree that is leaning. If you have to cut a dead tree, be very careful. The top could break off and kill you.
- If a tree is broken and under pressure, make sure you know which way the pressure is going. If you're not sure, make small cuts to release some of the pressure before cutting up the section. Be careful of young trees that other trees have fallen on. They act like spring poles and may propel the chain saw back into your leg.
- When bucking a downed tree, it may be necessary to use a wedge to keep the saw from binding up.

Use a chain saw from ground level only. Avoid having to use a ladder or climb up into a tree. When felling a tree, keep everyone at least two tree lengths away. You should have a preplanned escape route. It should be a 45 degree angle from the projected direction of the falling tree. Make sure there is nothing that could trip or stop you from making a quick retreat.

When picking up wood debris, get help. Bend your knees and lift with your legs, not your back. A 24-inch log may weigh over 100 pounds.

*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.*

