



Tailgate Safety Talk

Information You Can Use to Prevent Accidents & Injuries

Hands-On Chain Saw Safety

When cutting, hold the saw firmly with both hands, with thumbs and fingers wrapped around the handles. Grip the saw with the right hand on the rear (throttle) handle and the left hand on the front handle, even if you are left-handed. A firm grip will help you maintain control of the saw in the event of a kickback or other unexpected reaction. Keep the handles dry, clean, and free of oil or fuel mixture to avoid slipping and aid in control of the saw.

Chain saws are designed to be run at full speed. Maintain a full throttle setting while cutting to maximize your productivity and to reduce fatigue for safer operation.

Carry the chain saw with the engine stopped, the guide bar and cutting chain to the rear and the muffler away from your body. When transporting your chain saw, always use the appropriate guide bar scabbard.

Don't start to cut trees until you have a clear work area, secure footing, and a planned escape path from the falling tree. Use extreme caution with cutting small-size brush and saplings because slender material may catch the cutting chain and be whipped toward you or pull you off balance. If a limb or sapling is under tension (called a springpole) be alert for whiplash so that you won't be struck by the limb or saw when the tension is released.

Cut while standing slightly to the side, out of the plane of the cutting chain and guide bar to reduce the risk of injury in the event you lose control of the saw. Don't overreach or cut above shoulder height. It is very difficult to safely control the saw in awkward positions.

To avoid the risk of kickback, make sure that the area in which you are cutting is free from obstructions. Don't let the nose of the guide bar contact a log, branch, or any other objects while you are operating the saw. Don't cut near chain link or wire fences.

Don't operate a chain saw in a tree or from a ladder unless you have been specifically trained and are equipped to do so. There is always a risk that you can lose your balance because of cutting forces on the saw or movement of material being cut. Some cutting tasks require special training and skills. Remember, there is no substitute for good judgment.

Maintain proper saw tension. A loose chain can come off the guide bar and strike the operator. Competent service personnel should perform all service other than items mentioned in the owner's manual. Improperly performed maintenance may damage the saw and present a hazard to the operator.

Use caution when handling fuel. Move the saw away from the fueling point before starting and don't smoke while refueling.

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.