

Toolbox Talks are intended to facilitate health and safety discussions. Find more Toolbox Talks on the [Occupational Safety web page](#).

General Information

“A chain saw is one of the most versatile tools you can own, but it cuts both wood and flesh equally well” (<https://www.familyhandyman.com>). Before you cut, ensure you have received proper training.

Preventive measures

- Read the operator’s manual.
- Check controls, chain tension, all bolts and handles, to ensure that they are functioning properly and that they have been adjusted according to the manufacturer’s instructions.
- Ensure that the chain is sharp and the lubrication reservoir is full.
- Start the saw on the ground or on another firm surface.
- Determine where the tree/branch will fall. Ensure there are no buildings, power lines, vehicles or other items that the tree/branch will hit. Ensure that you have a safe way out of the area.



Chain Saw Safety Tips

- Wear the proper personal protective equipment when operating the chainsaw, which includes hand, foot, leg, eye, face, hearing and head protection.
- Do not operate the chainsaw while wearing loose fitting clothing, jewelry, or anything else that could become entangled.
- Do not operate with protective devices disabled or removed.
- Clear away dirt, debris, small tree limbs and rocks from the saw’s chain path. Look for nails, spikes or other metal in the tree before cutting.
- Shut off the saw or engage its chain brake when carrying the saw.
- Keep your hands on the saw’s handles, and maintain secure footing while operating the saw.
- Be cautious of kick-back. To avoid kick-back, do not saw with the tip of the guide bar.
- Saw below shoulder height and do not overreach.
- Stand slightly to the left of the guide bar, not directly behind it.

Discussion Date:

Supervisor:

Participants:

Source: Family Handyman