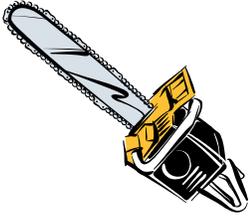


Safety Note # 9

## GENERAL CHAINSAW SAFETY



According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, a total of about 28,000 people were treated in hospitals for chainsaw injuries during 2003. Of this total, approximately 5,800 injuries were to legs and 7,600 injuries were to fingers and hands. ***This safety note is to be used in conjunction with the chainsaw safety video (E-078) available for loan from the ANR Environmental Health & Safety Library at <http://safety.ucanr.org>.***

### Pre-Use Activities

- Thoroughly review and understand information provided in the chainsaw operator's manual with particular attention given to descriptions of safety procedures.
- Before using, always inspect the chainsaw, including checking lubrication, chain tension, drive sprocket, guide bar, oil and air filters, and for electric chain saws, inspect the electrical cord and plug.
- If a chainsaw fails the pre-use inspection, notify your supervisor and remove the chainsaw from service by attaching a red tag that states "DO NOT USE." Complete red tag with appropriate information.
- California regulations (Title 8, Section 3421 d) require chainsaw safety training prior to performing tree trimming assignments.

### Operating Precautions

- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment, including hard hat, safety glasses with side shields, ear plugs, gloves, steel-toed boots, and if available, protective chaps.
- Always start the chainsaw on the ground. Never drop start or start a chainsaw on your knee.
- Chainsaws are designed to be run at full throttle.
- Do not operate a chainsaw when tired or taking prescriptive medicine.
- Maintain a secure grip with both hands on the chainsaw handles for control.
- Cut while standing to the side and out of the plane of the chain and guide bar.
- Keep legs and feet from under the chainsaw.
- Chainsaws are not designed to cut anything other than wood. Do not cut near wire fences or into wood that contains nails or other metal objects.
- Do not overreach or cut wood above shoulder height and never use a chainsaw from a ladder or tree.
- Prevent kickback by never letting the nose of the guide bar (i.e. saw tip) contact wood surfaces and by making sure your cutting area is free from obstructions.
- Before refueling, allow the saw engine to cool.
- Always transport chainsaws with the engine stopped and the chain and guide bar pointed backwards.