



Chainsaw Massacre

I have a friend that experienced the classic chainsaw kick-back several years ago and his face is not pretty. He jokingly says he lived through a Chainsaw Massacre. I know we all understand how to use a chainsaw, but a gentle reminder from OSHA will not hurt. Operating a chainsaw is inherently hazardous. Potential injuries can be minimized by using proper personal protective equipment and safe operating procedures.

Before Starting a Chainsaw

- ✘ Check controls, chain tension, and all bolts and handles to ensure that they are functioning properly. Also make sure that all appropriate pieces are adjusted according to the manufacturer's instruction.
- ✘ Make sure that the chain is always sharp and the lubrication reservoir is full.
- ✘ Start the saw on the ground or on another firm support.
- ✘ Drop starting is never allowed.
- ✘ Start the saw at least 10 feet from the fueling area, with the chain's brake engaged.

Fueling a Chainsaw

- ✘ Use approved containers for transporting fuel to the saw.
- ✘ Dispense fuel at least 10 feet away from any sources of ignition when performing construction activities. **No smoking during fueling.**
- ✘ Use a funnel or a flexible hose when pouring fuel into the saw.
- ✘ Never attempt to fuel a running or HOT saw.

Chainsaw Safety

- ✘ Clear away dirt, debris, small tree limbs and rocks from the saw's chain path. Look for nails, spikes or other metal in before cutting.
- ✘ Shut off the saw or engage its chain brake when carrying the saw on rough or uneven terrain.
- ✘ Keep your hands on the saw's handles, and maintain secure footing while operating the saw.
- ✘ Proper personal protective equipment must be worn when operating the saw, which includes hand, foot, leg, eye, face, hearing and head protection.
- ✘ Do not wear loose-fitting clothing.
- ✘ Be careful that the trunk or tree limbs will not bind against the saw.
- ✘ Watch for branches under tension, they may spring out when cut.
- ✘ Gasoline-powered chainsaws must be equipped with a protective device that minimizes chainsaw kick-back.
- ✘ Be cautious of saw kick-back. To avoid kick-back, do not saw with the tip. If equipped, keep tip guard in place.

Recalls

General Electric Recalls Gas Ranges Due to Fire Hazard, (877) 546-0116

Cannondale Recalls Bicycles With Carbon Crankset Due to Fall Hazard, (800) BIKEUSA (245-3872)

Thermador® Ceramic Cooktops Recalled by BSH Home Appliances Corp. Due to Fire Hazard, (800) 758-1001

Innovative Scuba Concepts Recalls Diving Regulator Components Due to Drowning Hazard, (800) 472-2740

For product recalls, call the manufacturer or go to <http://www.recalls.gov>. For vehicle recalls, go to <http://www.recalls.gov/nhtsa.html> or call toll-free 1-888-327-4236.

