

Montana Ag Safety Program



Chainsaw Safety

- Select the correct size chain saw for the task at hand. Small chainsaws should be utilized only for light work.
- Read and follow all manufacturer's recommendations for operation and maintenance.
- Ensure the saw is in good working condition and that the brake/all safety features are operating correctly. Inspect saw, chain, and bar regularly.
- Keep a sharp chain and maintain correct tension.
 - Take care when sharpening the chain – cover the chain with a heavy rag and make sure it is properly secured before sharpening
 - A loose chain could come off the bar. A tight chain could bind and overheat.
- Wear appropriate PPE.
 - Well-fitting clothing with no rips or fraying
 - Saw chaps (made from ballistic nylon or Kevlar)
 - Hard hat
 - Face protection – a full-face shield or safety goggles/glasses
 - Hearing protection
 - Footwear appropriate for the terrain
 - Gloves
- Clearly label saw gas containers.
- Allow the chainsaw to cool before refueling. Move a minimum of 20' away from any sources of ignition prior to fueling. Move a minimum of 10' away from the fueling site before starting the saw.
- Use approved starting methods.
- Turn the chainsaw off and carry with the bar facing behind you when moving farther than 50'. For shorter distances, engage the chain brake with the chainsaw running.
- Use good body position to help reduce the effects of "pull-in" and "kickback" forces.
 - To prevent kickback:
 - Hold the saw firmly (with both hands)
 - Begin and continue cutting at full throttle
 - Cut only one log at a time
 - Use extreme caution when withdrawing or reinserting into an incomplete cut
 - Know the location of the nose of the guide bar and do not let it come in contact with an unintended object – Watch for dirt, rocks, and other logs!
- Do not operate the chainsaw above waist-level; stay low to the ground.
- Plan your escape routes when felling and maintain your safety zone.
- Use appropriate technique for felling, limbing, and bucking.
- **NEVER operate a chainsaw alone! ALWAYS work with a partner.**

These safety rules have been written and provided to you for your safety. Your signature below indicates you have read and understand these rules, and further, that you accept the responsibility of always using good judgment to make workplace safety your number one priority.

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