



CHAIN SAW SAFETY TRAINING & PROCEDURES

SECTION I

OSHA REQUIREMENTS

This section of chain saw training will familiarize you with the standards that appear in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR).

§§29CFR §1910.266 (5) (i.)-(xi.) states that chain saw operators shall be instructed as follows:

- Inspect the saws daily to insure that all handles and guards are in place and tight, that all controls function properly, and that the muffler is operative.
- Follow manufacturer's instructions as to operation and adjustments.
- Fuel the saw only in safe areas and not under conditions conducive to fire, such as persons smoking, hot engines, etc.
- Hold the saw with both hands during operation.
- Start the saw a minimum of ten feet away from fueling areas.
- Start the saw only on the ground or when otherwise firmly supported.
- Be certain of good footing and clear away brush (or any trip hazards) which might interfere before starting engine.
- Do not use engine fuel for starting fires or cleaning solvent.
- The chain saw shall be shut down or the chain brake shall be engaged whenever a saw is carried further than 50 feet (15.2 m). The chain saw shall be shut down or the chain brake shall be engaged when a saw is carried less than 50 feet if conditions such as, but not limited to, the terrain, underbrush and slippery surfaces, may create a hazard for an employee.
- Carry the saw in a manner to prevent contact with the chain or muffler.
- Do not use the saw to cut directly overhead or at a distance that would require the operator to relinquish a safe grip on the saw.

SECTION II

CHAIN SAW SAFETY

Chain saws are an extremely helpful tool when cutting logs, trees, or limbs. They are also one of the most dangerous tools when not used properly or maintained in a like-new mechanical/operating condition.

Chain saws will sever limbs (tree limbs and body limbs) and have caused death when the proper care and safety precautions have not been followed. The cut of a chain saw is unforgiving and at the very least will cause severe body damage in the blink of an eye.

The following section of chain saw safety training sets additional rules and guidelines that **all** City of Anderson employees are charged with following and abiding by when using a chain saw or being near someone else who is using a chain saw.

Gloves that provide adequate protection from puncture wounds, cuts, and lacerations are required to be worn whenever carrying or using a chain saw.

Leg protection (chaps) constructed with cut-resistant material, such as ballistic nylon shall be worn anytime that an employee is operating a moving chain saw. The leg protection shall cover the thigh to the top of the boot on each leg. **Exception:** This requirement does not apply when an employee is working as a climber if the employer demonstrates that a greater hazard is posed by wearing leg protection in the particular situation, or when an employee is working from a vehicular mounted elevating and rotating work platform meeting the requirements of 29 CFR 1910.68. **Leg protection (chaps) must be stored with chain saw.**

Clothing should fit properly: no loose clothing, shirt and sleeves buttoned, shirt-tails tucked in.

Proper footwear is mandatory when using or carrying a chain saw. The footwear shall cover and provide support to the ankle. The footwear must be constructed with cut-resistant material which will protect the employee against contact with a running chain saw.

Goggles are required when using, carrying, or in the vicinity of the use of a chain saw.

A hard hat is required to be worn by operators or others in the vicinity of a chain saw operation.

Wear ear (hearing) protection as needed/required.

Thoroughly inspect all areas where cuts are to be made for energized conductors, attachments, objects, or hardware that may cause electrical shock or cause the chain saw to kick back while a cut is being made. Examples: power lines, strand, u-guards, lags, nails, bolts, rams heads, washers, staples, clotheslines, basketball hoops, etc.

Cutting edges of the chain are to be inspected, maintained, and sharpened before each use and as needed.

Automatic oilers are to be functional and the oil flow unobstructed at all times, and oil is to be of a sufficient amount in the reservoir that a dry cut will not be made.

Chain saws must be stored in a secure, safe manner on a vehicle.

Guards for covering the cutting bar and chain are to be in place when saw is not in use.

The proper tension must be maintained on the chain at all times to prevent the chain from jumping out of the channel and causing serious injury. A chain cannot be too tight or it will burn up the motor.

All hardware, chain brakes, guards, and handles are to be inspected and properly tightened before each use.

Never drop-start a chain saw.

Always use both hands to control a chain saw, both when starting and when cutting.

Never make a cut above chest level.

Safety lines of ample size and strength to hold/lower the load are to be used as needed when felling or dropping sections, limbs or trees, so as not to cause injury to persons or damage to property.

Safety lines should be used to control swinging, shifting, and falling of the object being cut and to lower it after the cut is finished. Caution must be exercised relating to the proximity of energized power lines before, during, and after the cut is to be made. Hand lines may be used to lower or raise a chain saw when the chain saw is not running, but never attach any line to a chain saw before starting the motor or while it is running.

Pre-survey the work area to assure yourself that the chain saw operation you are about to conduct can be completed without encountering dangerous or unnecessary obstacles or conditions. If any obstacles are detected, move or remove them, change the location of the cut, or do not proceed if you cannot make the work area safe for yourself, co-workers, or the public.

Safeguards must be taken to protect all public and private property from damage.

Never lean off balance or on the handle of a chain saw when the motor is running or when you are making a cut.

Undercuts are particularly dangerous and should be made with great care. When an undercut is necessary, never apply more “up” pressure than is needed to make a controlled, safe cut.

If a gas chain saw is used in the air (not recommended), there is extra danger due to the limited foot space and positioning room. Pre-survey the cut you are about to make and think it through. If it is decided that a chain saw would be too dangerous to use in the air, use a stick saw or hand saw, or contact your supervisor.

Listed below are some questions you need to answer before you begin to take a gas saw in the air.

- Are there any attachments or hardware on the back of the pole, tree or limb?
- What is in the way that could cause a kick back?
- Where is the cutting bar going to come out at the end of the cut?
- Do I need a safety/lowering line on the object to be cut or a ground hand before I make this cut?
- Am I positioned and balanced properly to control the starting and operation of the saw and the cut object as well as any shifting load that will result from the cut?
- Will the object I am about to cut fall, swing or move when cut, and where?

Special care must be taken when using a chain saw in slippery or wet conditions so as not to slip or fall while starting or actually using the chain saw.

Most times when an injury or fatality is realized from a chain saw accident, the resulting investigations revealed that had the proper maintenance, care and safety precautions been taken, there would not have been an accident.

That split second when using a chain saw, is one that will get you hurt. Make sure your mind is on what you are doing and think the job through safely before you proceed.

Because of the high revolutions of the cutting chain that are necessary to make desirable cuts and the close proximity of the operator to the chain saw, there is no room for taking the smallest of chances. Be sure that all rules and regulations are followed and never take any shortcuts.

Proper positioning and well-maintained equipment are essential throughout a chain saw operation.

Never attempt to start a chain saw if you do not have complete control of the saw with both hands.

Never operate a chain saw if you are off balance or have to lean off balance to finish the cut.

Make sure your body and head are not going to be in the path of the saw in the event of a kick back.

The few extra minutes needed to make an aerial cut with a hand saw as opposed to using a gas-powered chain saw may save a serious injury, a limb, or even your life.

Exercise good judgment when planning to use a chain saw, maintain your chain saw properly, follow all safety practices at all times, and review this training material as needed.

**CERTIFICATE OF EMPLOYEE TRAINING IN CHAIN SAW
SAFETY PROCEDURES
PURSUANT TO 29 CFR 1910.266**

I, _____, certify that on _____, the
(Department Head) (Date)

following employee(s) of _____ received the
(Department)

training required under the OSHA Standard on Logging Operations.

NAME/SIGNATURE

NAME/SIGNATURE

As part of this training, employees were informed of the City of Anderson Chain Saw Safety Training & Procedures. By my signature and those of the individual employees listed above, we certify that each employee has demonstrated his/her understanding of this training.

(Signature of Training Instructor)

(Date)