

SIX TIPS FOR CHAINSAW SAFETY



Chainsaws are incredibly powerful and dangerous tools. You will always need to follow guidelines for chainsaw safety when you're operating one. This applies whether you use one for work or for occasional cutting at home.

HERE ARE SIX TIPS TO ENSURE YOUR SAFETY WHEN USING CHAINSAWS:

NEVER USE WITH A DULL BLADE.

The blade should always be sharpened and the chainsaw should always be oiled. If you fail to do so, you will increase your chance of getting injured.

USE A CHAINSAW WITH STANDARD SAFETY FEATURES

They include a stop switch, chain catcher, spark arrester, and hand guards. The chainsaw should also have a chain brake that will quickly stop the chain from moving even when operating at full speed.

WEAR PROPER PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE).

Wear proper safety equipment which includes a hard hat with hearing protection and face shield. Safety glasses are also recommended. Wear sung-fitting leather work gloves and chaps.

ONLY CUT AT WAIST LEVEL AND BELOW.

You should never operate a chainsaw over your head because it's too unsafe. If you need to reach something that's over your head, you should use a ladder to reach it safely.

HAVE AN ESCAPE ROUTE ALREADY PLANNED.

The ideal route to take is 45 degrees from the direction you expect the tree to fall. You should also make sure there is nothing that can trip you while making your escape.

REFUEL YOUR TOOL

If the chainsaw runs out of gas during operation, you shouldn't refuel it immediately. Instead, you should let it cool down. AND, you must not smoke while refueling

Working Safely With Chainsaws

https://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/data_Hurricane_Facts/chainsaws.pdf

OSHA Quick Card

<https://www.osha.gov/Publications/3269-10N-05-english-06-27-2007.html>

Tailgate Talk Resources:

NLTAPA <https://nltapa.org/information-exchange/nltapa-tailgate-talks/>

Louisiana LTAP www.louisianaltap.org

Chainsaw Safety Training

<https://www.ltrc.lsu.edu/ltap/training.html>

Louisiana's Tailgate Talk Series

TIMELY SAFETY BRIEFINGS





HOW TO CONDUCT A TAILGATE TALK

Tailgate Talk is a gathering of small group of workers around the tailgate of a truck or other spot for a brief training session on a single safety topic. Consider using the "Tailgate Talk" concept to help you conduct 10-15 minutes of training sessions with your crew.

KEY POINTS:

- Choose one safety topic per session.
 - Be concise. Keep it short.
 - Keep the sessions small.
- Meet in a comfortable & safe spot.
- Allow time for questions & answers.
 - Document the training.

CHOOSE SAFETY TOPICS

- Pick topics related to recent events.
- Ask employees for their ideas.
- Read newsletters and local news for more information. Use them for additional ideas.

PLAN LOGISTICS

- Limit sessions to a small number of workers. Six to 10 is a good number.
- Hold sessions early in the week, but not on Monday mornings.
- Conduct tailgate training sessions an average of once a week. Dedicate specific time for the training.
- Limit sessions to only 15 minutes.
- Be on the lookout for weather forecasts or any emergencies.

PREPARE YOUR PRESENTATION

- Use a one-page fact sheet provided on www.t2center.uconn.edu
- You may use materials provided by Louisiana LTAP www.louisianaltap.org
- Look for visual aids and/or props.
- Photocopy handouts ahead of time.
- Familiarize materials a night before.

CONDUCT THE SESSION.

- Keep your presentation informal.
- Don't use words your employees won't understand.
- Involve your workers in discussion of the topic.
- Allow time for questions at the end.
- Have workers sign a sheet showing they were trained and keep it on file.

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