

## Work environment – Rural safety

15.04.02

## Chainsaw safety &gt;

**This bulletin outlines some simple safety guidelines for those working in the rural industry and is one of a series on Rural Industry safety.**

**Buying chainsaws**

- When buying a chainsaw, bigger is not always best.
- Chainsaws should be chosen with the type of work they are to be used for distinctly in mind.
- Don't forget to equip yourself with the appropriate protective clothing.
- Choose a chainsaw which is fitted with safety devices such as a chainbrake, anti-vibration dampers and a chain catcher.

**Handle chainsaws with care**

- Carefully read the operator's manual. Obey the safety and operating instructions.
- Use the correct methods for felling a tree.
- Do not cut above shoulder height.
- Do not stand on the felled tree trunk when limbing.
- Check the chainsaw thoroughly before use. Ensure that the chainsaw is in good condition, the chain sharpened correctly and that all safety devices are fitted and in working condition.
- Reduce the danger of 'Kick Back', follow the safety instructions. Use the correct grip.
- Always start the chainsaw according to the manufacturer's instructions. 'Drop Starting' is a dangerous practice.

**Maintenance**

- Maintain your chainsaw regularly.
- Keep the chain sharp and correctly tensioned.
- Always carry the saw with the cutter bar facing backwards and the guard in position when not in use.
- If in doubt, contact the manufacturer.
- Fit the bar cover when the chainsaw is not in use.

putting safety first &gt;



## Be protected

- Wear protective equipment such as cut resistant pants or chaps, ear muffs, safety glasses or face shield, helmet, boots and close fitting clothing.
- Never use a chainsaw if you are tired, under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or if the weather conditions are not suitable. Chainsaw operators need to be alert to avoid accidents.

## Operation

- When operating a chainsaw it is important to maintain a firm grip - get a good foothold and keep the saw close to your body.
- Always cut at peak revs to have a better chance of cutting through any obstruction.

## Training

- Chainsaws are not toys and should be given the same respect you would a loaded weapon.
- Never allow an inexperienced person to use a chainsaw. All chainsaw operators should be properly trained.
- Less experienced operators should always be closely supervised.
- Some operations such as removing branches from standing trees, the removal of trees on wires and cutting trees thicker than the bar guide length, should only be undertaken by a professional.

**CHAINSAWS in the right hands can be one of the most efficient pieces of equipment on the farm.**

## Have you:

- read the manufacturer's instructions?
- maintained the chainsaw in good working order?
- provided and ensured the appropriate protective equipment is worn?

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