



TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS OF ILLINOIS RISK MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

RISK REMINDER

PARTNERING WITH TOWNSHIPS

WORKING SAFELY WITH CHAIN SAWS

The chain saw is one of the most efficient and productive portable power tools used in the industry. It can also be one of the most dangerous. If you learn to operate it properly, and maintain the saw in good working condition, you can avoid injury as well as being productive.



Before Starting the Saw

- ✓ Check controls, chain tension, and all bolts and handles to ensure they are functioning properly and adjust according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- ✓ Fuel the saw at least 10 feet from sources of ignition.

While Running the Saw

- ✓ Keep hands on the handles and maintain secure footing while operating the chainsaw.
- ✓ Clear the area of obstacles that might interfere with cutting the tree or using the retreat path.
- ✓ Do not cut directly overhead.
- ✓ Shut off or release throttle prior to retreating.
- ✓ Shut off or engage the chain brake whenever the saw is carried more than 50 feet, or across a hazardous terrain.
- ✓ Be prepared for kickback; use saws that reduce kickback danger (*chain brakes, low kickback chains, guide bars, etc.*)

Personal Protective Equipment Requirements

- ✓ Personal protective equipment (PPE) for the head, ears, eyes, face, hands, and legs are designed to prevent or lessen the severity of injuries to the individual or other workers using chain saw.
- ✓ PPE must be inspected prior to use to ensure it is in serviceable condition.
- ✓ The following PPE should be used when hazards make it necessary:
 - Head Protection
 - Hearing Protection
 - Eye/Face Protection
 - Leg Protection (Chaps)
 - Foot Protection
 - Hand Protection
 - Proper reflective clothing

For more information, contact your Loss Control Consultant at (800) 252-5059, ext. 1387 or 1384.

CLAIM REPORTING HOTLINE (844) 562-2720 | Available 24/7