

Chain Saw Safety

Operating a chain saw can be hazardous. Potential injuries can be minimized by using proper personal protective equipment (PPE) and safe operating procedures.

Before starting a chain saw

- Check controls, chain tension, and all bolts and handles to make sure they are functioning properly and that they are adjusted according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Make sure that the chain is always sharp and that the oil tank is full.
- Start the saw on the ground or another firm support. Never drop start.
- Start the saw at least 10 feet from the fueling area, with the chain's brake engaged.

Fueling a chain saw

- Use approved containers for transporting fuel to the saw.
- Dispense fuel at least 10 feet away from any sources of ignition when performing construction activities. **No smoking during fueling.**
- Use a funnel or a flexible hose when pouring fuel into the saw.
- Never attempt to fuel a running or HOT saw.

Chain saw safety

- Clear away dirt, debris, small tree limbs and rocks from the saw's chain path. Look for nails, spikes or other metal in the tree before cutting
- Shut off the saw or engage its brake when carrying the saw on rough or uneven terrain.
- Keep your hands on the saw's handles, and maintain balance while operating the saw.
- Proper personal protective equipment must be worn when operating the saw, which includes hand, foot, leg, eye, face, hearing and head protection.
- Do not wear loose-fitting clothing
- Be careful that the trunk or tree limbs will not bind against the saw.
- Watch for branches under tension; they may spring out when cut.
- Gasoline-powered chain saws must be equipped with a protective device that minimizes chain saw kickback.
- Be cautious of saw kickback. To avoid kickback do not saw with the tip. Keep tip guard in place.

For more information and additional risk management and prevention tools, visit: [fwcruminsurance.com](https://www.fwcruminsurance.com)