

## Pre-Commercial Thinning Foreman Injured by Chainsaw

**Task:** Cutting four-inch hemlock    **Occupation:** Foreman    **Release Date:** 2020

In November 2019, a foreman at a pre-commercial thinning operation was cutting a four-inch western hemlock when his saw's chain got fouled in the tree's branches. He throttled up on the saw while pulling it back to try to release it. When the saw broke free from the branches, the tip of the saw came back and hit him on his left leg by his knee. A crew member administered first aid then drove the foreman to town where he got medical attention. He received 11 stitches and was off work for several weeks. Investigators found that the damaged condition of the foreman's chaps may have contributed to his injury. The rest of the crew had brand new chaps on site, but the foreman chose not to wear them.



**Foreman's chaps.**

### Safety Requirements

- Leg protection must be maintained in serviceable condition. See [WAC 296-54-51160\(2\)](#)
- Chain saws must be operated and adjusted in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. See [WAC 296-54-537\(1\)\(d\)](#)
- Saw pinching and subsequent chain saw kickback must be prevented by using wedges, levers, guidelines, and saw placement, or by undercutting. See [WAC 296-54-537\(2\)](#)

