

## Chain Saws

Except for log home builders and site clearer's, it is rare that a chain saw is used on construction jobs. These are a specialty tool that have their own special hazards. Before you use, review.

### Guide for Discussion

#### *Before Operations*

Always review operator instructions before you use a chain saw.  
Wear snug fitting clothing; don't wear any jewelry.  
Be sure to wear earplugs especially if you plan to cut for a long period of time.  
Always check for defects in the saw. Replace all defective parts before operating the tool.  
Don't use a saw with a dull blade.  
Check the item to be cut for nails, wire and any other metal-imbedded items.  
Before cutting, plan a path of retreat.

#### *During Cutting*

When cutting, keep the saw away from your body.  
Never cut anything directly overhead.  
Be wary of materials to be cut that may be under tension.  
Be careful to avoid pinching the blade or guide bar.  
As the material begins to fall, turn off the saw and move away quickly.  
Watch for a rebound.

#### *After Cutting*

Allow the saw to cool before refueling.  
Don't operate the saw near your refueling area.  
Check the operator instructions for any special after operations maintenance instructions.

### Additional Discussion Notes:

***Instructor:*** Determine company policy on always wearing a hard hat, ear plugs, safety glasses or goggles, leg protection and safety shoes when using a chain saw.

**Remember:** Chain saws can greatly reduce the labor burden in a construction project. However, these are a dangerous tool and can seriously injure a worker when improperly used. Use common sense and the basic rules we discussed to have a safe operation.

### Attendees:

NOTE: Always promote a discussion on any of the topics covered in the Tool Box Talks. Should any question arise that you cannot answer, don't hesitate to contact your Employer.