

## Toolbox Talk # 39

# CHAINSaws



Company Name:	
Job Name:	
Date:	

### Key Points

1. **Chainsaws pose a high risk** of severe cuts and amputations if not handled properly.
2. **Kickback can occur** when the saw's tip hits an object, causing sudden loss of control.
3. **Prolonged chainsaw use** can lead to hand-arm vibration syndrome (HAVS), causing numbness and nerve damage.
4. **Loud noise from chainsaws** can cause permanent hearing loss without proper ear protection.
5. **Flying debris from cutting wood** or materials can cause serious eye injuries without safety goggles.
6. **Exhaust fumes from gas-powered** chainsaws create respiratory hazards, especially in enclosed spaces.
7. **Improper maintenance**, such as a dull chain or loose parts, can cause dangerous mechanical failures.
8. **Wearing proper PPE**, including gloves, chaps, helmets, and goggles, is essential for reducing injury risks.

**1 in 5** chainsaw injuries happen during first-time use (**lack of training**).



# Top 5 chainsaw hazards...

1. **Cuts and Amputations** – Improper handling can lead to severe injuries.
2. **Kickback** – Sudden loss of control when the saw's tip contacts an object.
3. **Vibration Injuries** – Prolonged use can cause hand-arm vibration syndrome.
4. **Hearing Damage** – High noise levels can lead to permanent hearing loss.
5. **Flying Debris** – Cutting materials can send debris causing eye injuries.



1. Am I wearing the proper PPE before using the chainsaw?
2. Is the chainsaw properly maintained and sharp for safe use?
3. Is the area clear of obstacles and other workers before I start?
4. Am I aware of the kickback zone and how to avoid it?



## Summary

Chainsaw usage requires strict safety precautions to prevent injuries. Proper handling, maintenance, and protective gear are essential to avoid cuts, kickback, and accidents. OSHA guidelines emphasize safe operation to protect workers from serious harm while using chainsaws on the job site.



OSHA requires strict safety guidelines for chainsaw use on construction sites to prevent injuries. Workers must use personal protective equipment (PPE) like gloves, helmets, and chaps when operating chainsaws. Employers must also ensure proper training and maintenance of equipment to ensure safe operation.

### Key Chainsaw Regulation

29 CFR 1926.304 – Hand and Power Tools

This regulation requires employers to provide chainsaw operators with proper training, maintenance, and PPE. It ensures safe use of chainsaws by reducing the risk of accidents, injuries, and fatalities on construction sites through appropriate safety measures.



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CHAINSAWS



ATTENDEES

Print Name:	Signature:

Additional Comments: