



CHAIN SAWS

This TBT must not be used as a substitute for formal training in the use of powered chain saws. It should serve only as a reminder of training previously received. In appropriate circumstances, the safe use of the equipment being discussed should be demonstrated.

1. Only use a chain saw if you have been trained and authorised to do so.
2. The use of the correct PPE is essential as chain saw injuries may include severe lacerations, amputations, blood loss, and death.
3. Ensure any permits to work are valid, or permission to work has been sought, such as work near railway lines
4. The correct PPE includes: -
 - a. Safety helmet, properly adjusted
 - b. Box goggles, grade S, and a metallic mesh face screen
 - c. Ear defenders
 - d. Special heavy duty gloves
 - e. Trousers or leggings of multi-layer stranded fibre chain clogging fabric
 - f. Safety boots
5. Before use
 - a. Check – ignition switch off
 - b. Check – chain moves freely round the guide bar (wear gloves for this)
 - c. Check – operation of chain break incorporated within hand guard
 - d. Check – chain sharp and correctly tensioned
 - e. Check – guards in position
 - f. Check – fuel and oil levels



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- g. Choose bare ground for re-fuelling – then move at least 3 metres away before starting engine
6. When starting and operating: -
 - a. Follow manufacturer's instructions
 - b. Adopt good grip with both hands using hand grips provided
 - c. Ensure that the chain brake is working correctly. Do not use the saw if not
 - d. Maintain firm foot hold
 - e. Never use saw above shoulder height
 - f. Never use saw with one hand
 - g. Avoid using the nose of the chain/guide to prevent 'kickback'
 - h. Beware of nails or screws in timber to prevent 'kickback'
 - i. Always begin and cut at full throttle
 - j. Re-enter previous cut with extreme care
 7. When carrying the chain saw, stop engine, apply chain brake, fit protective scabbard and position engine exhaust away from body.
 8. When transporting the chain saw, fit the protective scabbard and secure to prevent overturning.
 9. Report any defect in the equipment or the system of work without delay, and do not use