

Important Safety Precautions for Chainsaw Users

Kickback Safety Precautions

Warning! Kickback may occur when the nose or tip of the guide bar touches an object, or when the wood closes in and pinches the saw chain in the cut. Tip contact in some cases may cause a lightning fast reverse reaction, kicking the bar up and back towards the operator. **Pinching** the saw chain along the top of the guide bar may push the guide bar rapidly back towards the operator. Either of these reactions may cause you to lose control of the saw which could result in serious personal injury.

Do not rely exclusively upon the safety devices built into your saw. As a chainsaw user, you should take several steps to keep your cutting jobs free from accident or injury.

1. With a basic understanding of kickback, you can reduce or eliminate the element of surprise. Sudden surprise contributes to accidents.
2. Keep a good firm grip on the saw with both hands, the right hand on the rear handle, and the left hand on the front handle when the saw is running. Use a firm grip with thumbs and fingers encircling the chainsaw handles. A firm grip will help you reduce kickback and maintain control of the saw. Don't let go.
3. Make sure that the area in which you are cutting is free from obstructions. Do not let the nose of the guide bar contact a log, branch or any other obstruction which could be hit while you are operating the saw.
4. Cut at high engine speeds.
5. Do not overreach or cut above shoulder height.

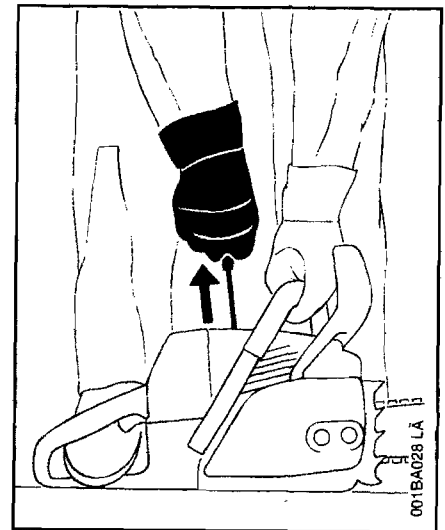
Other Safety Precautions

Do not operate a chainsaw with one hand! Serious injury to the operator, helpers, bystanders, or any combination of these persons may result from one-handed

operation. A chainsaw is intended for two-handed use.

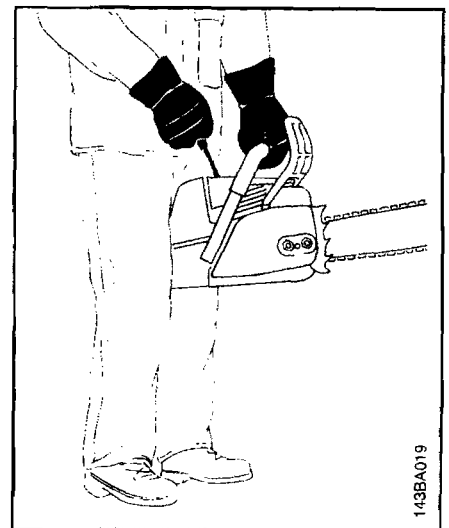
1. Do not operate a chainsaw when you are fatigued.
2. Use safety footwear; snug fitting clothing; protective gloves; and eye, hearing and head protection devices.
3. Use caution when handling fuel. Move the chainsaw at least 10 feet (3 m) from the fueling point before starting the engine.
4. Do not allow other persons to be near the chainsaw when starting or cutting with the chainsaw. Keep bystanders and animals out of the area.
5. Do not start cutting until you have a clear work area, secure footing and a planned retreat path from the falling tree.
6. Keep all parts of your body away from the saw when the chainsaw is running.
7. Before you start the engine make sure that the saw chain is not contacting anything.
8. Carry the chainsaw with the engine stopped, the guide bar and the saw chain to the rear, and the muffler away from your body.
9. Do not operate a chainsaw that is damaged, improperly adjusted, or not completely and securely assembled. Be sure that the saw chain stops when the throttle trigger is released.
10. Shut off the chainsaw before setting the chainsaw down.
11. Use extreme caution when cutting small size brush and saplings because slender materials may catch the saw chain and be whipped toward you or pull you off balance.
12. When cutting a limb that is under tension be alert for springback so that you will not be struck when the tension in the wood fibers is released.
13. Keep the handles dry, clean, and free of oil or fuel mixture.
14. Operate the chainsaw only in well ventilated areas.
15. Do not operate a chainsaw in a tree unless you have been specifically trained to do so.

Starting the Chainsaw



With the **first method**, the chainsaw is started on the ground. Make sure the chain brake is engaged (see "Chain Brake" chapter in your Owner's Manual) and place the chainsaw on firm ground or other solid surface in an open area. Maintain good balance and secure footing.

Grip the front handlebar of the saw firmly with your left hand and press down. For saws with a rear handle level with the ground, put the toe of your right foot into the rear handle and press down. With your right hand pull out the starter grip slowly until you feel a definite resistance and then give it a brisk, strong pull.



The **second recommended method** for starting your chainsaw allows you to start the saw without placing it on the ground. Make sure the chain brake is engaged, grip the front handle of the chainsaw firmly with your left hand. Keep the arm on the front handle in a locked (straight) position. Hold the rear handle of the saw tightly between your legs just above the knees. Maintain good balance and secure footing. Pull the starting grip slowly with your right hand until you feel a definite resistance and then