

Hazard Review

- **Damage to eyes**
- **Flying debris**
- **Hearing loss**

Related Safe Work Practices

- **Aerial Lifts**
- **Fire Safety**
- **First Aid**
- **Fuel Safety**
- **Power Tools**
- **Tree Work**

Personal Protective Equipment

- **Chaps or other leg protection**
- **Head protection (for overhead hazards)**
- **Hearing protection**
- **Leather gloves and/or heavy duty anti-vibration gloves**
- **Safety glasses and face shield**
- **Steel-toed shoes**

Authority

- **CCR Title 8 Section 6283**

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BEFORE

1. Complete required training. This includes:
 - a review of the manufacturer's operating manual.
 - training on this SWP and those listed as related. These must be completed before the initial assignment and every 2 years thereafter.
2. Read the owner's manual to familiarize yourself with the controls and how to use the chainsaw safely.
3. Inspect the saw daily for the following:
 - There are no damaged, loose or missing parts.

¹ RPD Industrial Investigation, EHS Case #2981, DOI 12/22/05

- The guide bar is tight.
- The chain is sharp and lubricated.
- The chain fits snugly without binding, and the drive links, cutters and track are not damaged.
- The handles and guards are in place and tight.
- All controls function properly.
- The muffler and air intake filter is clean.
- The spark arrester is in place.
- The saw brake works properly. To do this, apply the chain brake with the saw held firmly in both hands and the engine running at operating power.
- The chain is clear of obstructions.
- There is no loose material on or in the saw.

4. Plan each job before you start.

- Check out the area and look for any hanging, overhead limbs, things you may trip on, or loose brush.
- Arrange to have help if you need it.
- Ensure you have the right saw for the job. The weight, power, and bar length should all be suitable for the job

If you are not comfortable doing a job, you may call Urban Forestry to help you.

5. When fueling the chainsaw, do the following:

- Follow manufacturer's directions for oil/gas mixture.
- Mix fuel in a well-ventilated area.
- Keep a fire extinguisher nearby.
- DO NOT SMOKE or allow any ignition sources in the area while refueling.
- Store fuel in an approved safety can.
- Use funnel or spout for pouring.
- Wipe off any spills.
- When filling gas cans from a fuel pump, remove them from the bed of the truck and place on the ground)
- Do not refuel a running or hot saw.
- If it is raining, keep fuel containers closed. If water gets into the fuel, it can destroy the saw.

DURING

1. When starting the chainsaw, do the following:

- Start the saw at least 10 feet away from a fueling area.
- Maintain at least a five foot clearance from any surrounding object(s) so that you don't hit it when pulling the starter cord.
- Hold the saw firmly on the ground. Point the chain away from your body and nearby obstructions. Use a quick, sharp motion on the starter cord.

- Warm up the saw prior to cutting. Saw should idle without the chain turning. If the chain continues to run after the throttle switch is released, and the idle needs adjustment, take to the Urban Forestry Yard for repair.
2. DO NOT:
 - Use a saw that has damaged, loose or missing parts.
 - Drop start (starting saw in hands). This leaves only one hand to control a running saw and can result in leg cuts.
 - Start saw unless it is at least 10 feet from a fuel container.
 - Make adjustments to chain or guide bar when motor is running.
 - Stand directly behind the saw whenever possible.
 - Leave saw running unattended.
 - Carry chainsaw while it is running.
 - Cut alone (except in the case of an emergency).
 - Use while on a ladder.
 - Transport chainsaw or fuel container in the passenger compartment of a vehicle.
 - Carry a saw on your shoulder unless the saw is off, AND the chain is properly guarded or removed.
 2. Know the location of persons working with you at all times.
 3. Operate chain saw in a firm, two-handed grip with fingers and thumb surrounding the handles. Keep both feet firmly positioned when operating a chainsaw. Chainsaws weighing more than 20 pounds (service weight) used in trees shall be supported by a separate line, except when working from an aerial lift device (see *Aerial Lifts*), or during topping or removal operations.
 4. Monitor chain for sharpness. Turn off the chainsaw, and change the chain when the cutters become dull.
 5. Tension the saw as needed. The chain stretches as it heats up and requires adjustment at intervals throughout its operation
 8. When limbing (removing branches from trees), do the following:
 - Stand firmly on the ground.
 - If ground slopes, stand on uphill side.
 - Do not cut limbs that are supporting the log. Roll the log first.
 9. When bucking (cutting a log into shorter lengths) do the following:
 - Clear the work area.
 - Use vertical cut. A vertical cut avoids binding. To prevent damage to the blade, cut approximately 3/4 way down, then roll the log over and finish the cut. Use a peavey pole to roll the log if it is too heavy to roll with your foot.

- Request assistance from heavy equipment if the log is too heavy to roll with a peavey pole.
 - Cut compressed side first. Cut tension side last.
 - Keep feet away from trunk while bucking.
10. When pruning (cutting limbs from a standing tree) do the following:
- Maintain proper stance. Keep both hands on the saw, both feet on the ground, and maintain balance at all times.
 - Work at shoulder height or below, whenever possible. Undercut limb first, then cut from the top.
11. When transporting saw:
- Shut off saw motor when carrying saw from one place to another. Saw shall be at low speed with the chain brake on when carried short distances.
 - Let saw cool before transporting.
 - Carry saw with bar behind and facing away from you. Ensure scabbard is on and muffler is away from body.
 - Secure saw during transportation to prevent it from moving.
15. Loose chains increase wear on the drive sprockets, drive links and bar, and endanger the operator if it climbs out of the track. Too tight a chain will increase wear on components. When adjusting chain tension:
- Shut off the saw
 - Wear gloves to avoid cuts
 - Loosen bar nuts
 - Rest tip of bar on small piece of wood to hold tip up
 - Tighten chain by turning adjustment screws until snug against the bar but able to be turned freely.
 - Tighten bar nuts for correct chain tension by pulling on bar upwards with gloved hand or supporting it firmly from below.
 - Check tension frequently and adjust as required
 - Ensure chain rotates smoothly after tensioning
16. Clean the saw every time the chain is changed.
17. To reduce the risk of kickback
- Watch the guide bar nose. Do not let it touch logs, branches or the ground when the chainsaw is running.
 - Cut only one piece at a time.
 - Run the saw at full power when cutting.
 - Keep the chain sharpened to specifications.
 - Match chain and bar for exact pitch and gauge.
 - Set depth gauges to manufacturer's specifications.
 - Maintain correct chain tension
 - Hold the saw securely with both hands.

- Know where the bar tip is at all times.
- Make sure the chain brake functions and adequately stops the chain. The stopping power of chain brake can be greatly reduced by wear, or by oil, dirt, or sawdust in the brake parts.
- Install a safety tip that covers the nose of the guide bar on the saw to prevent contact with the kickback zone. The tip must be removed for making bore cuts (pocket cuts) or for cutting wood thicker than the length of the guide bar.
- DO NOT stand directly behind the saw or cut in the kickback zone. Additionally, do not cut close up to the saw. This exposes the guide, and may result in contact with the kickback zone.

AFTER

1. Drain all fuel into an approved container before storing saw for a long period of time. Then start motor to empty fuel from the carburetor.
2. Store your saw in a cool, dry place.
3. Do not use saw in need of repair. Notify your Supervisor and take it to the Urban Forestry Yard for service.
4. Periodically, you should ensure the following is done:
 - Keep muffler and air intake filter clean.
 - Clean out the chain-oil portal when maintaining the guide bar. Sawdust can block delivery of oil to the cutting chain. Check that oil is coming out when running.
 - Remove the brake housing periodically and clean out any dirt, oil or sawdust.
 - Clean the bar and oil holes.
 - Oil the clutch.
 - Keep the bar tip greased (grease available at Urban Forestry Yard).

References:

1. Husqvarna 346XP/351 Operator's Manual; 101 90 08-95
2. Husqvarna Chain Saw Operator's Safety Manual;101 87 19-93

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