

Chainsaw

The rules and procedures in force where people are at work may require the person responsible for this equipment to carry out a specific risk assessment.

It is important to read all of this leaflet BEFORE you use the Chainsaw

- This leaflet should be read together with the safety instruction leaflet for the chainsaw provided by the hire company.
- A chainsaw is a powerful tool, which can easily cut through hard timber. However, it can also cause serious injuries if it is used carelessly.
- This leaflet can help you to use the chainsaw safely, but it can't take the place of training and act in a careful and responsible way to avoid accidents.
- The guidance in this leaflet is aimed at ALL chainsaw users (apart from full-time professionals who have had rigorous training).



PREPARATION

- You must always be wide-awake, and fully alert whenever you are working with the chainsaw. If you are tired or confused, or under the influence of drugs or alcohol, do not use the saw. Leave the job for another day.
- When using a chainsaw, there are three main hazards to be constantly on guard against. These are:
 - kickback - when the tip of the guide bar kicks up and back unexpectedly;
 - leg injuries - caused by letting the saw drop out of control;
 - the tree or timber, which could fall on you or someone else.

The steps outlined in this leaflet will help you guard against these hazards.



Every user of a chainsaw must ensure that the information given in this document and supporting material to have arisen from the use of the chainsaw. HAE/HEHA cannot accept responsibility for any loss or liability perceived to have arisen from the use of any such document/material. Only Acts of Parliament and Statutory Instruments can authoritatively interpret the law.

HAE
Hire Association Europe
2540 Regents Court
The Crescent
Birmingham Business Park
Solithol B37 7YE

Telephone: 44 (0) 121 380 4600
Fax: 44 (0) 121 333 4109
Email: mail@hae.org.uk
Website: www.hae.org.uk

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- Equipment that you have suitable personal protective equipment (safety equipment) for the job. This equipment should be checked by a competent person how small the job to give protection against injury. The hire company will make appropriate equipment available.
- The chain tension can be adjusted with the two-in-one tool supplied with the chainsaw.
- Check the chain tension. Make sure that the chain brake is off, and that the control switch is set to OFF. Put the saw down on a flat surface. With the engine stopped, push the front hand guard forward until it clicks. The chain should now be fixed solid. If the chain can move, contact the hire company straight away.
- Take the chain brake off by pulling the front hand guard back towards the front handle. The chain should move freely again.
- Check the chain tension. Make sure that the chain brake is off, and that the control switch is set to OFF. Put the saw down on a flat surface. With the engine stopped, push the front hand guard forward until it clicks. The chain should now be fixed solid. If the chain can move, contact the hire company straight away.
- Do not use the saw for cutting small shrubs or trees without solid wood.
- Do not use the saw for cutting timber that may have nails or other foreign bodies in it.
- Do not use the saw for cutting roots or stumps at ground level. This would quickly blunt the chain.

- The necessary equipment is:
- safety helmet
 - face shield or chainsaw mesh visor
 - ear defenders
 - chainsaw safety mitts
 - chainsaw leg protectors giving all-round leg protection
 - chainsaw protective gaiters
 - industrial steel toe-cap boots



CHECK THE SAW

The saw has a brake built-in, which can stop the chain instantly. This helps to reduce the probability of kickback injuries. With the engine stopped, push the front hand guard forward until it clicks. The chain should now be fixed solid. If the chain can move, contact the hire company straight away.

Before Starting Work...



- Slacken off the two nuts holding the guidebar so that they are finger-tight. Adjust the chain tension by turning the clockwise to tighten.
- When the chain tension is right, hold the front end of the guidebar up and tighten the two nuts so that the guidebar is secure.

THINK ABOUT THE HAZARDS

- The three main hazards to be constantly on guard against are: kickback, leg injuries, and the timber itself.
- Kickback is a sudden kicking up and back caused by either:
 - the chain at the tip of the guidebar hitting an object and being thrown back, rather than cutting in; or
 - the wood squeezing together and pinching the chain in the cut.In both cases, because the cutting chain unexpectedly kicks back up towards your shoulders and head, it can cause severe injuries.
- Leg injuries are often caused by the user letting the saw drop or swing out of control after cutting through the timber. In fact, about two out of three of chainsaw injuries are to the leg or foot.
- The tree that you may plan to cut down and remove from the site may fall on you or someone else. Branches can spring and flick as they are cut.

GUARD AGAINST THE HAZARDS



- If you have not used a chainsaw before, practice each of the steps in starting and running the engine running. This will let you get used to the sound of the saw. It will also help you work from a safe and secure position as soon as you start the saw.
- Put protective clothing on before attempting to start or use the chainsaw.
- Always grip the saw correctly with two hands. The front handle with your right hand on the front handle, with your right hand on the rear handle, controlling the handle.
- To avoid kickback:
 - hold the saw firmly with both hands; stand solidly with both feet on the ground;
 - do not over reach;
 - do not allow the nose of the guidebar to touch any obstruction such as a branch or log;
 - cut only at full power;
 - never cut above shoulder height.

GENERAL TECHNIQUE FOR CUTTING

- Hold the saw turning at full power before starting to cut. This means that the chain teeth will cut into the wood, rather than bouncing or skidding.



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Logging

- When you are cutting up timber into short logs, avoid cutting upwards. Instead, roll the log down the slope, and cut through the log. Put the chain brake on, and put the saw down, before rolling the log.
- Do not try to cut small pieces of timber that you can't lift. If you have to cut, use proper cutting 'horse', then cut right through them without having to roll them.

Conclusion

- If you think your equipment is not working properly, stop using it. Contact the hire company. Do not try to repair it.
- If at any time you are uncertain about the job you are doing, stop the saw and think about the hazards. Contact the hire company. If you need different tools to get the job done safely, contact a professional tree surgeon if the job is too difficult or hazardous.
- You may want to read this leaflet again. Please keep it until you finish work.

Always

- Cutting up a tree that has been felled can be more hazardous than felling the tree. The log will be heavy and will be under a lot of pressures and tensions that are not easy to gauge. As you cut through them, the branch or entire tree could move in an unexpected way.
- Hold the saw firmly with both hands.
- Stand solidly with both feet on the ground.
- Do not over reach.
- Do not allow the nose of the guide bar to touch any obstruction such as a branch or log.
- Cut only at full power.
- Never cut above shoulder height.



than the bottom of the notch. Aim to stop short of the notch. This leaves a strip of wood to act as a hinge.

As the tree starts to fall, withdraw the saw, stop it, and move away on your planned escape route.

Branch removal

- Be cutting a tree that has been felled can be more hazardous than felling it. The limbs and branches of the tree will be under a lot of pressures and tensions that are not easy to gauge. As you cut through them, the branch or entire tree could move in an unexpected way.
- If the tree was supported by the point, it is not safe to cut it. If it is, it is not safe to cut it. If it is, it is not safe to cut it.
- Because of the pressures in the fallen tree, you have to make sure that the saw is not supported by the wood. The wood supports the tree, and the tree supports the saw. On others, you may need to cut part way through, then move the branch over before cutting from the other side.
- Always stop the saw before the guidebar attempts to cut up, with the tip of the guidebar.
- Never stand astride a felled tree or branch.

- The best way to tackle the fallen tree is by working from the outside, towards the trunk. Try to cut off a whole limb at one go. However, do not use the chainsaw to clear foliage, twigs, or thin branches. Loppers or a bow saw will be far safer.
- Never stand astride a felled tree or branch.

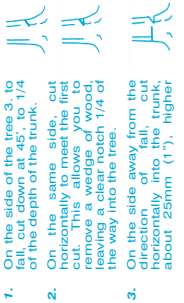
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- Cut with the bottom of the guidebar, close to the body of the chainsaw.
- Use the bumper spikes as a pivot point, bringing your right hand up, steadily to allow the guidebar to sink into the wood.
- When the guidebar is about horizontal, steadily lower your right hand, cutting with the bumper spikes slide down the wood.
- Then pivot around the bumper spikes again and smoothly lower the saw in stages through the wood.
- There is no need to press the saw down hard; a firm pressure, together with the own speed of the saw, will allow it to cut at its own speed.
- Always keep a check on the tip of the guidebar: do not let it touch anything!
- As you come to the bottom of the cut, be prepared for the saw to come free. Reduce the pressure on the saw, so that it does not become ready for the offcut to come free from the body of the timber.
- Sometimes you need to cut sideways, for example to cut down a tree. To cut sideways, that is on the left of the saw body with your left hand. You can now turn the saw onto its side, and stay in control, the saw as before to cut sideways into the timber.
- If the saw throws out sawdust instead of becoming blunt. Contact the hire company. Always.
- Hold the saw firmly with both hands.
- Stand solidly with both feet on the ground.
- Do not over reach.
- Do not allow the nose of the guidebar to touch any obstruction such as a branch or log.

FELLING

- Look at the tree and think about the amount of weight that is balanced above your head: you intend to bring all this down to ground cause injury to yourself or others, or damage to property.
- Remember, some work with trees should only be done by a fully competent professional operator. Do not try to cut down or work on:
 - any tree over 4 metres in height or with a trunk greater than 150mm diameter;
 - any fallen trees or uprooted that were over those sizes when standing;
 - any storm damaged or hung-up trees;
 - any tree that is leaning excessively;
 - any tree that is holding up another tree;
 - any standing tree that is rotten in the trunk.
- Get a professional tree surgeon to do these jobs.
- There must be a clear area around the tree for a distance equal to at least twice the tree's height. The tree may bounce when it comes down. The tree is upright, it may behave in an unexpected way when the tree falls onto them.
- In the clear area, there should be no:
 - electrically or telephone cables;
 - people;
 - property likely to be damaged.

Make the cuts in this sequence:



- Work out where your cuts are going to be. Before you pick up the saw, the sequence of cuts should be planned. The sequence as being the safest and most efficient way of felling a variety of trees. Most importantly, it means that you do have full control over the direction that the tree falls.
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