



# CHAIN SAW SAFETY

**Target Audience:** This CEU-accredited course (DS/DW/WW02094016 at 0.7 hr) is designed specifically for DOT District employees, municipal public works, streets/roads, parks, water utility and/or other city or county employees who engage in ground limb/vegetation debris removal, are exposed to common chain saw work hazards and the risks associated with limb debris machines and tools.

**Supervisors and Trainers:** Also recommended for division supervisors, agency safety officers, department safety coordinators, and equipment trainers.

**Post-storm (Additional Emergency On-Call Operators):** After natural disasters, it is not uncommon to call on new operators (from other divisions even) to assist as back-up chain saw debris removal crews as primary workers fatigue or are rotated on shifts. This program would orient these additional workers as standby crews.

Students will receive a Training Certificate!



**For more information or to inquire about upcoming training dates:**

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## Classroom Part

**Accident Case Studies:** As an introduction, a number of recent city/county employee accident cases are reviewed. Each represents a likely severe injury or fatality scenario related to chain saw work.

**Personal Protective Equipment and Clothing:** Types of chain saw chaps, gloves, hard hats, shoes, eye wear and other protective gear is featured.

**Chain Saw Safety:** We conduct an in-depth review of safe work practices related to chain saws including choosing the right saw, maintenance, proper use, avoiding kick-backs, trouble shooting and stowing.

**Power Line Issues:** Risks related to using chain saws near high voltage wires are covered including close proximity to above ground wires. It illustrates how tree limbs are a perfect conductor of high voltage power.

**Other Hazards:** Heat stress, lightning, poisonous plants, insects/ bees and other hazards incidental to chain saw work are presented.



## Field Exercise Part

A field exercise can be conducted where select or all individuals perform various segments of actual “hands-on” chain saw operation.

### 1) Hazard Assessment

- Power lines
- Rotted limbs
- Rotted trunk
- Insects
- Objects at Risk
- Personnel
- Fall zone

### 2) Saw Inspection

- Guards
- Fuel, Oil, (Filler cap good, level full, no leaks)
- Dirt/dust/Chips buildup
- Chain tightness
- Chain brake
- Tip “kickback” guard
- Pull Chord

### 3) Starting

- Saw on ground
- Switch on
- Choke (y/n)
- Foot in handle
- Stable full range pull
- Quickly starts

### 4) Saw Handling/Position

- Stance
- Position
- Grip
- Extending/lean limit
- Up-hill/out of fall/roll zone/pinch point
- Carrying

### 5) Attack

- Near saw body
- No upper tip use
- Upper blade use
- Grip/grab tooth use
- Forcing/bending

### 6) Pre-cuts

- Face cut
- Hinge wood
- Bore
- Back strap

### 7) Stump Grinding

- Equipment
- Techniques
- Hazards

### 8) Wood Chippers (on request)

- Proper Operation
- Techniques
- Hazards

