

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)

Chainsaws

HAZARDS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serious injuries from saw blades • Manual handling injuries • Slipping, Falling • Hearing damage • Eye injury • Falling limbs • Fire and burns
PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT & EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti cut chainsaw chaps • Hard hat, earmuffs and eye guards • Sturdy fully enclosed work boots • Correctly fitting Leather gloves • Fire extinguisher • First Aid kit • Communication device
BEFORE YOU START	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct pre start checks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Place chainsaw at suitable working height - Ensure chain is sharpened and tensioned as per manufacturer's specifications. - Clean and check the condition of the air filter, sprocket covers and grill on fan housing. - Check for loose parts. - Examine chain throw stop. - Ensure chain catcher is in place and ant-vibration mountings are in good condition. - Ensure all cover bolts are tight. - Top up the fuel and oil reservoirs and clean all traces of fuel and oil from saw. - Ensure chain brake mechanism is in good condition.
NEVER.....	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Never operate a chainsaw unless you have completed and passed an approved chainsaw operators course. • Never use a chainsaw over shoulder height • Never operate a chainsaw from an unstable platform • Never refuel a chainsaw with a hot engine
JOB STEPS	<p>Starting the Chainsaw</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place chainsaw on cleared area on the ground away from other personnel and close to the job. • Check that the choke and throttle controls are set correctly. • Place the right foot through the rear handle and left hand on the front handle with left thumb under front handle. • Kneel on left knee to help brace chainsaw and to avoid bending.

- Operate starter with right hand – **keep clear of running chain.**
- Apply chain brake when motor runs.
- All cutting operations should be carried out in accordance with Australian Standard 2727 (1984) “Chainsaws – Guide to Safe Working Practices”.
- Use both hands to hold the chainsaw, with top hand thumb under front handle
- Always stand with secure footing and stance
- Apply chain brake when cut is complete.
- Start cut with chainsaw chain rotating at full speed and spike bumper in contact with the wood.
- Avoid using the nose of the chainsaw and keep it away from other objects.
- Avoid low engine revs while cutting, particularly when bar nose is covered by timber.
- Check chain tension and sharpness regularly

WHEN YOU FINISH

- Allow engine to cool.
- Ensure all safety guards are in place.
- Stow chainsaws securely in load space of vehicle (in box or tie it down).
- Chainsaw is to be cleaned and fuelled as per above procedures.
- Place in correct storage area on return base.