STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

TASK: Chainsaws

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Supervisor/Manager: Operations Supervisors

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HAZARDS:

• Serious injuries from saw blades
• Manual handing injuries
• Slipping, Falling
• Hearing damage
• Eye injury
• Falling limbs
• Fire and burns

PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT & EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT

• 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

• Conduct pre start checks
  - 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.................. | Never operate a chainsaw unless you have completed and passed an approved chainsaw operators course.  
|                     | Never us a chainsaw over shoulder height  
|                     | Never operate a chainsaw from an unstable platform  
|                     | Never refuel a chainsaw with a hot engine  
|---------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| JOB STEPS            | Starting the Chainsaw  
|                     | 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.