# Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)  
## Chainsaws

### 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 use 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.