



# SAFETY ALERT

## CHAINSAW KICK BACK

April 2016



### ACCIDENT BRIEF

*In a thin to waste operation a faller by using the posting or blocking method has attempted to bring down a hang up tree. The faller was successful in completing the first posting cut and as he attempted to put in the second post cut the chainsaw has violently kicked back, striking the faller on the side of his face.*

*The faller received a chainsaw cut to the side of his face which required 40 internal stitches and a further 35 external stitches.*

### KICK BACKS CAN OCCUR WHEN

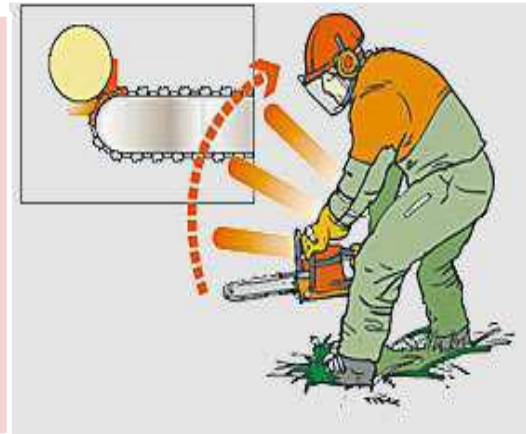
*The tip of the bar comes in contact with limbs, logs or light material*

*When boring into logs*

*The bar tip is pinched while cutting*

*The depth gauge setting is too low*

*Kick back can occur when using the saw when the guide bar is horizontal when making felling cuts, when trimming, when making a bore cut and when posting*



### HOW CAN YOU REDUCE A KICK BACK

1. *Ensure the correct use of the chainsaw and select the correct felling techniques*
2. *Have a firm and the correct grip on the chainsaw (thumb is wrapped under the front handle)*
3. *Correctly maintaining your chainsaw*
4. *Check that your safety mitt is fully effective*
5. *Ensure the chain brake is operational*
6. *Ensure correct sharpening and chain condition is maintained (correct depth gauge setting)*
7. *Avoid using the bar tip and make sure the bar tip doesn't hit branches or other material*
8. *Do not over reach and do not use your chainsaw above shoulder height*

**TO CONTINUE KICK BACK AWARENESS**

**DISCUSS THIS SAFETY ALERT AT YOUR NEXT TAILGATE MEETING**

