



SAFETY AWARENESS

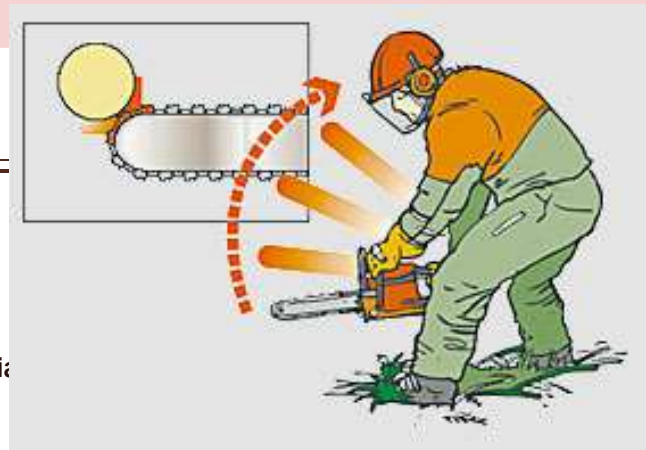
CHAINSAW KICKBACK 26 SEPTEMBER 2014

ISSUE

Kickback is a risk in all chainsaw operations. Kickback occurs when the upper part of the bar nose contacts a solid object or is pinched. This causes a reactive force that may throw the guide bar in an uncontrolled arc towards you and can result in serious injury (BPG for Chainsaw Use).

Two recent kickback incidents in our silviculture crews provide a good opportunity to **STOP** and remind fallers of the steps required to minimise kickback.

1. LTI - Faller was cutting towards next tree to fell, cut a branch that was 'under tension', chainsaw kicked back into operators face bar and chain went through helmet visor before chain brake activated. The faller sustained a laceration/cut on his nose requiring hospital treatment.
2. Faller was working along bank edge. He went to open up a tree, slipped and the tip of the chainsaw bar struck stem kicking back. Bar and chain went through the visor and helmet while the person was slipping down the bank before the chain brake activated.



1. KICKBACK CAN OCCUR WHEN:

- ☐ The nose hits hidden limbs or light material.
- ☐ The saw is boring into a log.
- ☐ The bar nose is pinched while cutting.
- ☐ The bar nose contacts ends of logs or obscured material.
- ☐ The chain is loose.
- ☐ The depth gauge setting is too low.
- ☐ Kickback can occur in any plane. It may occur when using the saw with the guide bar horizontal when making a felling cut, while making a bore cut, or while trimming.

2. WE RELY ON THESE CONTROLS:

- ☐ Best practice chainsaw techniques to avoid operators placing themselves in the way of kickback, should it occur.
- ☐ Good chainsaw maintenance in terms of sharpening and chain brake maintenance.
- ☐ Good handling of the saw.
- ☐ A securely fitted chainsaw mitt.
- ☐ Appropriate fatigue management.

EVERYONE GOES HOME SAFELY AT THE END OF THE DAY!

Operating hazards (cont...)

Hazard	Control
Kickback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold the saw firmly with both hands. • Make sure your left thumb is wrapped firmly under the front handle and in the mitt. • Be aware of the location of the guide bar nose at all times. • Stand to the side when cutting, not directly behind the bar • Do not let the guide bar nose come in contact with any object. • Be especially careful when cutting small limbs or light material that may catch in the chain. • Do not over-reach or cut above shoulder height. • Use extreme caution when re-entering a cut. • Cut only one log at a time. • Correctly maintain your saw; make sure there are no loose-fitting nuts, bolts, or screws. • Ensure that safety devices are operable. • Make sure the chain is tensioned and sharpened, and that depth gauges are set to the manufacturer's specification. • Use the correct bar and chain combination.
Fires	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not smoke when refuelling. • Move away from refueling area before starting saw.
Vibration injuries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the vibration damping mounts on the saw are in good condition.
Other workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply the two tree length rule. • If being supervised or trained, ensure other worker is aware of your proposed actions, escape route and safe position. • If working together, only one person cutting at a time.