



Safe chainsaw operations

Using a chainsaw comes with the job on farm, especially following storms and weather events. Injuries can happen when we haven't prepared ahead and assessed the conditions or the job correctly. Use this guide to work safely around chainsaws, you can put it up on the wall by your gear, and discuss it with your team.

1. Know your capabilities

Match the size and type of your chainsaw to the job at hand. Only a professional should attempt to cut down trees.

2. Check your chainsaw

Before start, check:

- All the parts are properly lubricated
- The chain has the correct tension
- The teeth are as sharp as possible
- All safety devices & equipment are in place
- There are no loose parts or bolts
- If in doubt, talk to a team member/someone else on farm

3. Gear up

- Protective gloves
- Chaps
- Helmet
- Safety glasses
- Class 4 or 5 hearing protection
- Solid boots (preferably steel-capped)



4. Check your work area

- Check for people or animals in the work area
- Do not work in adverse weather conditions
- Always ensure you have a clear work area, have a stable footing and do not have to reach or work off balance
- Identify uneven or sloping ground
- Always have an escape route planned and cleared
- Check for hazards in the area, such as electricity or telecommunication cables. If in doubt, seek advice
- Always check for any material such as branches or tops which may dislodge and fall into the work area as the tree falls

5. Never cut above shoulder height

6. There are only two correct ways to start a chainsaw. Either by placing the chainsaw on the ground or by keeping it between your legs

7. Watch for kickbacks

8. Cut only one log or branch at a time

9. Hold and use the saw correctly

- Two hands on the saw
- Close to your body
- Body of the saw close to what you're cutting
- Plant feet firmly, slightly apart
- Never adjust your chain or machine while engine is running
- Shut the chainsaw off before carrying it. Carry it by the front handle, bar to the rear

10. Carry-out regular maintenance of your saw