

# Beautiful Eastern Association

## of Snowmobile Trails



### *Safe Operating Procedures*

#### **SOP- 4 : CHAINSAWS**

The following hazards may occur during use of the chainsaw:

- Chain kickback resulting in cuts, amputations or loss of life
- Hearing damage
- Fire (refueling leak)
- Burns
- Musculoskeletal strain

#### **Safe Operating Procedures**

It is likely that at some point, while performing trail work, it will be necessary to use a chainsaw. This tool can be very dangerous in the hands of an uninformed person. It is recommended that all chainsaw users follow proper training before operating a chainsaw.

Section 39 of regulation 851 of the Ontario Health and Safety acts prescribes the following:

A chain saw shall have:

- A chain that minimizes the possibility of kickback, and
- A device which will effectively stop the chain in the event of kickback;
- Be in safe operating condition
- When started, be held firmly
- When being used, be held firmly in both hands and
- Have the chain stopped when not actually cutting

Following are procedures for reducing this type of hazard.

- The proper personal protective equipment to be worn is set out by the manufacturer and in the Occupational Health and Safety Legislation
  - Hard hat with screen / safety glasses
  - Safety Boots (CSA)
  - Ear protection
  - Safety chaps

- Chainsaw operators must have a valid Chainsaw Certification from a provincially approved provider: or must work with someone who holds a valid Chainsaw Certification from a provincially approved provider.
- The correct methods of starting, holding, carrying or storage and use of the saw as directed by the manufacturer must be used.
- Operate the chainsaw in well-ventilated areas only.
- The chain must be sharp, have the correct tension and be properly lubricated
- Before starting the saw, check for loose, damaged or missing parts. Do not operate the saw if there is a problem. Fix the problem first.
- When starting, the chainsaw must be held firmly.
- Never “drop start” the saw. Place it firmly on the ground, use your foot to anchor down the handle.
- Ensure that the chain brake is functioning properly and adequately stops the chain.
- Verify that the chain does not move when the engine is idling. The chain must be stopped when not cutting.
- When being used, the chainsaw must be held firmly with both hands.
- Plan your work before you start.
- Know the location of all persons working with you before you start cutting.
- Keep the saw clean and free of dust, dirt and oil.
- Do not leave a running saw unattended.
- Do not carry a saw while it is running. Install a scabbard, or sheath over the bar when transporting the saw.
- The chainsaw must not be used for cutting above shoulder height.
- Fueling must be done outdoors and the chainsaw must be turned off and cool (Refer to Refueling SOP).
- Don’t smoke when refueling.
- When carrying / transporting a chain saw, the bar guard must be in place, the chain bar must be toward the back and the motor must be shut off.
- Repairs to the chainsaw must be performed by qualified personnel, using O.E.M. parts or equivalent..
- Kickback occurs when the nose of the bar contacts an object, snagging the chain and quickly pushes it upward. This action can be very sudden and violent. Learn the principle of kickback:
  - Never stand directly behind the saw when cutting
  - Keep the nose from touching other material
  - Cut only one piece of wood at a time
  - Do not cut close to the body of the saw
  - Be sure you are using the correct bar and chain for that model of saw. Incorrect components may fit that saw, but could be unsafe
- Maintain the correct chain tension.
- Make sure the chain brake works properly.
- Verify that the slip clutch works properly. Adjust it according to the manufacturer’s specifications.
- Install only the proper grade of shear bolt in slip clutch.

- When working in the general area of cutting devices, wear adequate Personal Protective Equipment.
- Eye protection is mandatory.