

JOB SAFETY ANALYSIS

Safety Information for the University of California, Berkeley

FACILITIES SERVICES

OPERATING A CHAINSAW

TASK	HAZARDS	CONTROLS
1. Prepare work area.	Tripping hazards	Clear brush and debris, visually examine area to establish secure footing.
	Injuries to bystanders and co-workers	Warn people in or near area; utilize barricades, cones, or caution tape to keep bystanders a safe distance from job; consider the shape and lean of tree; consider wind force; plan escape route from work area in case of danger.
2. Start saw	Cutting injuries to hands, feet, body parts	Start saw on ground with foot on rear handle, left hand firmly gripping saw grip, right hand pulling starter cord. Maintain secure footing. Wear gloves, hard hat, chaps, sturdy work boots. Saws weighing less than 15 pounds may be drop started. Make sure co-workers are clear of saw.
	Flying debris entering eyes	Wear safety glasses with side protection, face shield.
	Hearing loss	Wear ear plugs or ear muffs.
3. Cutting wood	Cutting injuries to hands, feet, body parts	Maintain proper stance and hold; keep left arm and elbow straight, two hands on saw, body to the left of saw; maintain secure footing; never cut above shoulder level; cut with the underside of saw blade as much as possible. Stop engine for all cleaning, refueling, adjustments, and repair of saw.
	Log or limb rolling into body	Stand upslope so cut pieces roll away from feet, legs, and body.

		Kickback, blade bucking away from wood	Make sure blade is moving before making contact with material; use wedge when necessary to keep blade from binding; make sure solid objects like rocks or concrete do not contact blade; use 90-degree notch and backcut techniques on standing trees >5 inches in diameter.
		Flying debris entering eyes	Wear safety glasses with side protection, face shield.
		Muscle strain, fatigue	Utilize proper body position; stretch, take frequent breaks to maintain alertness; stay hydrated.
		Injuries to bystanders and co-workers	Maintain awareness of work areas; check barricades; do not approach operators; shout warnings to co-workers and bystanders.
		Hearing loss	Wear ear plugs or ear muffs.
	4. Carrying saw	Cutting hands, feet, body	Idle engine when carrying less than 100 feet; stop engine when carrying saw more than 100 feet; never carry saw over shoulder.
	Required Training: 1. Operation of chainsaw 2. First aid	Required Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) 1. Hard hat 2. Ear plugs 3. Safety glasses 4. Face shield 5. Gloves 6. Chaps 7. Work boots	
Other Information: Contributors: Created: JSA Library Number:	Senior EH&S Technician Jim Ostdick; Manager of Grounds Operations Phil Cody March 2003 FS-GRND-142		
For more information about this JSA, contact the <i>Office of Environment, Health and Safety</i> at UC Berkeley, 317 University Hall #1150, Berkeley, CA 94720-1150 (510) 642-3073 ● http://www.ehs.berkeley.edu			
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