

USING A CHAINSAW IN AND AROUND SAWMILL EQUIPMENT

Sometimes there is no choice to use a chainsaw to clear jam-ups in or around our equipment.

Having the proper safety equipment, training and well-maintained chainsaw will help minimize or eliminate injuries.

- WHAT ARE THE HAZARDS OF USING A CHAINSAW IN AND AROUND EQUIPMENT?
- WHAT'S THE BEST CHAINSAW FOR THIS TYPE OF ACTIVITY?
- HOW DO I PROTECT MYSELF WHEN USING A CHAINSAW IN A SAWMILL?



BC Forest Safety

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What are the hazards of using a chainsaw in and around equipment?

There is a higher risk with kickbacks when operating a chainsaw in and around equipment. If the saw blade strikes metal kickbacks can occur and potentially seriously injure the operator or someone helping them out.

Many times there will be other workers helping to clear the jam-up. They're at risk of being injured with kickbacks or if the operator loses their footing when operating the saw.

What's the best chainsaw for this type of activity?

Use the correct saw for the job. The weight, power, and bar length should all be suitable for the task at hand. Often reaching jam-ups from the catwalk can be done with the use of a battery-operated pruning chain saw at the end of a long pole. This helps to keep you out of the bite.

Consider using an electric chainsaw to eliminate the exposure to the exhaust from a gas powered chainsaw.

How do I protect myself when using a chainsaw in a sawmill?

Plan each job before you start. Fill out a field level risk assessment to assess the risks and develop controls to protect yourself before you start. Arrange to have help and do not cut alone. Refer to your establish safe work procedures and follow them.

Make sure that you are wearing all the necessary "PPE" or personal protective equipment. Consider a hard hat with a chin strap. You might be in an awkward position and don't need to be fighting with a hard hat that wants to fall off. Wear your chain saw chaps, hearting protection, gloves, eye wear and a face shield. Consider Kevlar arm protection if you're in tight or awkward position.

Get help from your supervisor if there are issues that prevent you from performing the job safely.

Know the location of the person(s) working with you at all times.

Make sure you are trained and assessed for competency on the chainsaw that is currently being used in your mill and the chainsaw is well maintained.



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