

# ASWP 12 R0

## Chain Saw Operation



### Revision History

Version	Revision Date	Brief Description of Revisions
R0	February 2016	Document has been updated to new format.

## ARBORIST SAFE WORK PRACTICES

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Workplace Safety & Prevention Services wishes to express its appreciation to those who have assisted in the preparation of the **Arborist SafeWorkPractices** guide.

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# 1.0 Introduction

The purpose of this document is to outline the safe work practices involved in operating a chain saw while on the ground and aloft. This section excludes tools such as telescopic pole chain saws, power pack chain saws, motorized pole saws and hydraulic pole saws and pruners.

# 2.0 Hazards

The following hazards have been identified to aid in establishing and maintaining a safe work environment when operating a chain saw:

Biotic Conditions  
Cuts and Abrasions  
Climatic Conditions  
Electrical Conditions  
Fire  
Mechanical

**Note:** The above list of hazards is not a complete list and a thorough job plan should be completed to identify existing hazards found at the work site.

# 3.0 Legislation / Safe Work Practices

The following information has been provided listing **arborist** safe work practices and legislation requirements:

- ASWP01 General Legislation
- ASWP01 Work in a Safe Environment
- ASWP02 Protect Self and Others
- ASWP02 Arborist Job Planning
- ASWP04 Working at Heights
- ASWP05 Tree Felling

Legislation	RRO / RSO	Section Referenced
<a href="#">Industrial</a>	851/90	39, 79, 80, 81, 82
<a href="#">Construction</a>	213 / 91	21, 112

## 4.0 Mandatory Information / Work Practices

The following are the general mandatory requirements for an arborist when working with a chain saw.

- All power chain saws shall be equipped with a chain that minimizes the risk of kick back
- All chain saws shall be operated with two hands on the chain saw at all times
- Chain saws shall be operated and inspected as per manufacturer's instructions
- Chain saw operators shall wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- If face shields are used they must be used in conjunction with approved safety glasses
- The engine should not be started until the saw is in the immediate work site, except when a warm-up period is required at which time the saw shall not be left unattended
- The operator shall ensure that the work site is clear of obstructions on the ground and aloft i.e. dead limbs or tree tops that may be hazardous
- Control Drop Zone and Hazard Area if applicable
- Operators shall decide on and prepare an escape route before cutting commences
- No one, except the operator, shall be allowed within a radius of 3 metres (10 feet) of a chain saw when it is in operation
- No adjustment shall be made to the chain while the engine is running
- During all chain saw operations, the operator must be fully aware of the consequences of any cut before it is made
- Chain saw shall not be operated above shoulder level
- The engine shall be shut off when moving the chain saw from one location to another, except when trees are in close proximity and the approach is unobstructed
- When moving from tree-to-tree with the engine running, the chain brake shall be applied
- A chain saw shall be removed from service immediately if any defects are evident that could affect its safe operation
- Hot chain saws shall be cooled before refueling


- A hot chain saw shall be placed on a log, stump or on bare ground, rather than in dry litter or slash
- Smoking, open flames, or other sources of ignition, are prohibited within 3 metres (10 feet) of the fuelling area
- Approved firefighting equipment shall be available
- When chain saws are stored or being carried a long distance, the chain should be guarded
- Chain saws shall be carried at the workers side with the guide bar pointed to the rear
- When not in use, the chain saw shall be turned off and placed in a location where it is clear of the work site and it will not be damaged by falling limbs
- Ensure manufacturer's instructions are readily available and have been understood by the operator

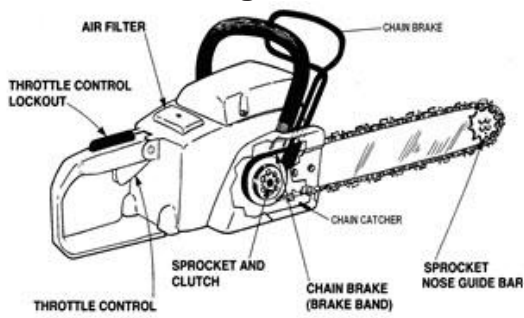
## 5.0 Work Practice

The following information will provide general information that is required when working with chain saw.

**Note:** Refer to owner / operator manuals for specific chain saw operation / maintenance.

### 5.1 Pre-operational Checks

Step	Action
<p>Inspect Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) (Figure 1)</p> <p><b>Figure 1</b></p> 	<p>Inspect and wear the following personal protective equipment (PPE), appropriate for the circumstance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Head protection</li> <li>• Hearing protection</li> <li>• Eye protection</li> <li>• Hand protection</li> <li>• Chain saw leg protection</li> <li>• Foot protection</li> </ul>

Inspect chain saw for hazards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inspect chain saw for loose components and missing components</li> </ul>
Perform pre-operational chain saw check (Figure 2) <div style="text-align: center;"> <b>Figure 2</b>  </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Start chain saw using a method described in the manufacturer's instructions</li> <li>Test chain brake by activating chain brake</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> If chain brake does not work, the chain saw must be removed from service and repaired.</p>

## 5.2 Maintenance

Step	Action
Perform routine maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Perform maintenance as per manufacturer's instructions</li> </ul>

## 5.3 Operate Chain Saw

Step	Action
Operate chain saw	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refer to ASWP04 Working at Heights</li> <li>Refer to ASWP05 Tree Removal</li> </ul>