Chainsaw Safety

1. Safe Operation

a. First - Read and follow the manufacturer’s instructions!

b. Always perform a thorough inspection of the chainsaw prior to each use.

c. Ensure that the proper fuel/oil ratio for that particular chainsaw is being used.

d. Fueling of a hot chainsaw or smoking while fueling the chainsaw is **never** allowed.

e. Always refuel the chainsaw at least 10 feet away from the cutting zone.

f. Gasoline must always be stored in an approved safety container.

g. Never carry the chainsaw on your shoulder.

h. Always carry the chainsaw with the blade facing backwards (behind you) in case of a fall.

i. When starting a chainsaw, always pull the starter cord away from your body. Never drop start the chainsaw. You must always use leg-lock, or 1 hand, 1 foot on the ground unless you are in an aerial bucket or while in the tree. Never wrap the starting cord around your hand.

j. When working in a tree – always use a rope to pull the saw up to you once you are in place. Never climb a tree with the saw in hand or attached to your body.

k. Never cut objects that are above shoulder height.

l. Always trim away any brush and undergrowth first. Use appropriate string trimmers, mowers, etc. for clearing away weeds, brush and undergrowth.

m. Always be aware of your surroundings. Observe the location of people and objects prior to using a chainsaw.

n. When the chainsaw is in operation - maintain a minimum 6 foot distance from people and objects. Use barricades, barrier tape, a spotter, etc. as necessary to ensure this 6 foot safety zone is maintained.

o. Always use two hands to control the chainsaw (help prevent kickbacks).
p. Always maintain a steady base by spreading your feet apart.

q. Always engage the chain brake when moving with the chainsaw.

r. Chaps must be worn when operating a chainsaw while on the ground.

s. Always maintain a sharp blade. Check the blade prior to the start of use and frequently during the course of usage.

2. **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

   a. At a minimum, PPE shall include long pants, steel toed shoes, gloves, eye protection, a face shield, and hearing protection, and must be worn at all times while operating a chainsaw.

   b. Never wear jewelry such as chains, necklaces, etc. that can be caught by the chainsaw during operation of a chainsaw.

3. **Training**

   a. Chainsaw safety training shall include, but is not limited to, the following information:

      i. The policies and procedures that govern this program.

      ii. Responsibilities of those involved in the program.

      iv. A review of the chainsaw’s operations.

      v. Pre-startup inspection procedure for safety and mechanical failure.

      vi. Proper conduct for operating the chainsaw while obeying safety regulations.

   b. All training is to be documented and include the operator’s name, instructor’s name, date of training, and a brief outline of the training provided.