



Information You Can Use to Prevent Accidents & Injuries

Brush vegetation hazards include chain saws, sharp-edged tools, poison ivy, insects, thorns, large clumps of brush, slips, trips and falls on uneven ground, overcrowding of workers, moving equipment and utility lines.

What do we need to know before we leave the garage?

- Pre-trip your assigned truck.
- Determine what kind of traffic control is needed and make sure it is loaded up.
- Have the necessary personal protective equipment which includes a good pair of work gloves.
- Hard hat, ear protection, eye protection, and chaps are required for chain saw use. Dress appropriately for the weather. It's a good practice to wear long sleeve shirts and high top boots if you're going into high grass and weeds.
- Have plenty of cold water available for hot weather work.

What should we do out on the job?

- Park in an area that provides safe entrance and exit of the work area. Don't create a potential conflict with other work vehicles or the traveling public.
- Be aware of escape routes in case of an emergency. It's a good practice to face oncoming traffic while on foot.
- Look for loose materials, tripping hazards, uneven ground, slippery surfaces, and areas where equipment is operating. Remember that if you can't see the operator, the operator can't see you.

Chain saw and chipper operators must be trained to do the job.

- Use caution when handling tools with sharp edges. Gloves are required when sharpening tools.
- Allow ample space for everyone to work safely. Don't bunch up. Stay clear of chain saws unless you're the operator or the helper.
- Don't cut limbs or trees that may contact overhead utility lines.
- Tree trimming which would require climbing must be performed only by a trained employee or with the use of a bucket truck.
- Use extreme care when cutting trees and brush that are under stress such as conditions following an ice storm.
- Cut and stack limbs and brush in manageable pieces that are easily handled to avoid back injuries.
- Use equipment to move logs and large pieces of cut-up materials.

Users of this tailgate talk are advised to determine the suitability of the information as it applies to local situations and work practices and its conformance with applicable laws and regulations.

