This summer many resorts will do trail work that includes cutting trees. It is important to note that there are OSHA minimum requirements regarding chain saw use and personal protective equipment (PPE). There is a lot more information that is available online at www.osha.gov. Open the link and type in chainsaw.

**Before starting the saw**

- Check controls, chain tension, and all bolts and handles to ensure they are functioning properly and adjusted according to the manufacturer’s instructions
- Fuel the saw at least 10 feet from sources of ignition
- Check the fuel container for the following requirements:
  - Must be metal or plastic
  - Must not exceed a five-gallon capacity
  - Must be approved by the Underwriters Laboratory, Factory Mutual (FM), the Department of Transportation (DOT), or other nationally recognized testing laboratory.

**While running the saw**

- Keep hands on the handles, and maintain secure footing
- Clear the area of obstacles that might interfere with cutting the tree or using the retreat path
- Do not cut directly overhead
- Shut off or release throttle prior to retreating
- Shut off the throttle or engage the chain brake whenever the saw is carried more than 50 feet, or across hazardous terrain
- Be prepared for kickback; use saws that reduce kickback danger (chain brakes, low kickback chains, guide bars, etc.)

**Personal protective equipment requirements**

Personal protective equipment (PPE) for the head, ears, eyes, face, hands, and legs are designed to prevent or lessen the severity of injuries to loggers and other workers using chain saws.

For more information, contact Helen Richards,
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