



Safety Message of the Day for IMEA Members



Chainsaw Safety Message

Chainsaws are inherently dangerous tools. They are proven to be efficient in cutting down trees, so it is no surprise that they can cause serious injury to flesh and bones in quick fashion. Each year there are over 30,000 injuries in chainsaw-related incidents in the United States.

Many of these injuries occur at home, however, there are many workers who are injured on the job using chainsaws. Most of the hazards associated with chainsaw use can be mitigated through proper training, proper use, and wearing the correct PPE.

1. Most injuries from chainsaw use are due to "kickback." Kickback occurs when the tip of the chainsaw hits a hard object, such as a knot in the wood, and kicks back toward the person operating it.
2. 36% percent of chainsaw injuries affect the legs and knees.
3. The average chainsaw injury requires 110 stitches, according to the US Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Wear the correct PPE for using a chainsaw. The correct PPE, at a minimum, includes protective chaps, hardhat, face shield, gloves, earplugs, and protective toe boots. While it may be an expensive investment, the correct PPE will be far cheaper than a trip to an emergency room.