



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™  
MS AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY  
EXPERIMENT STATION

# MAFES DAWG TRACKS

Because chainsaws are made to easily cut down trees, of course flesh and bone are no problem for it to easily cut through as well. Each year in the United States there are over 30,000 injuries in chainsaw-related incidents. Most of these injuries can be prevented by wearing the proper personal protective equipment, but it is best to just work safely and cautiously; avoid testing protective equipment's effectiveness.

Before starting work check that your protective clothing is not already damaged and fits you correctly. Protective clothing & equipment should be suitable for the purpose; it should not impede movement but should fit snugly.

- Avoid loose-fitting jackets, scarfs, neckties, jewelry, unconfined long hair or anything that could become entangled with the saw or debris and brush. Wear overalls or jeans with a reinforced cut retardant insert or cut retardant saw chaps that are the proper length for your height.
- Protect your hands with gloves when handling saw and saw chain. Heavy-duty, nonslip gloves improve your grip and protect your hands.
- Good footing is most important in chainsaw work. Wear sturdy boots with nonslip soles. Steel-toed safety boots are recommended.
- To reduce the risk of injury to your eyes never operate a chainsaw unless wearing goggles or properly fitted safety glasses with adequate top and side protection.
- Do not operate a chainsaw when you are fatigued. Be alert – If you get tired while operating your chainsaw, take a break. A decrease in your focus on the task & may result in loss of control.

## General Chainsaw Safety Tips:

- ✓ Understand your limits. Sometimes it's better to call a professional if your project is beyond your abilities and comfort level. Don't let your ego get in the way of your safety.
- ✓ If you're a beginner start simple with your projects. Cutting logs for firewood or branches is a great place to start. Practice, practice, practice. Start small.
- ✓ Do not cut alone. Always have someone nearby just in case something goes wrong. Always have a good first aid & "stop the bleed" kit nearby.
- ✓ Inspect your chainsaw before starting to ensure that all the safety features are working, and the chain is tight on the guide bar.
- ✓ Do not drop-start the saw; it is best to set it on the ground for cranking.
- ✓ Always hold your running chainsaw with two hands. Never use one hand.
- ✓ When not actively sawing, but moving around, engage the chain brake.
- ✓ Never cut with the nose or tip of your chainsaw. This will cause kickback and is a leading cause of injury.
- ✓ Never use a chainsaw to cut above your head or from a ladder; use a pole saw instead.

For more info contact:

**Leslie Woolington**

MAFES/MSU-ES Risk Mgmt.

[LHW4@msstate.edu](mailto:LHW4@msstate.edu) 662-325-3204

## Sources:

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