

## **TOOLBOX TALK #10**

### **CHAIN SAW SAFETY**

Operating a chain saw poses a number of very serious risks. OSHA recommends the following protective measures be taken when operating a chain saw:



#### ***Before starting:***

- Check the chain tension and all controls, bolts, and handles to ensure they are adjusted according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Make sure the chain is sharp and the lubrication reservoir is full.
- Never "drop-start" (holding the saw down with one hand while pulling up the starter cord with the other) the saw. Start it on the ground or another firm surface.
- Start the saw at least 10 feet from the fueling area, with the chain's brake engaged.

#### ***Fueling:***

- Always transport fuel in approved containers.
- Dispense fuel at least 10 feet from sources of ignition.
- Never smoke while fueling.
- Pout fuel into the saw using a funnel or flexible hose.
- Never attempt to fuel a saw while it is hot or running.

#### ***Safe operations:***

- Clear dirt, debris and rocks from the chain saw's path. Before sawing, examine wood for hidden nails, spikes or other metals.
- When carrying the saw on rough or uneven terrain, be sure either the brake is engaged or the saw is fully shut off.
- Keep both hands on the saw's handle and maintain sure footing during operation.
- Wear PPE to protect your hands, feet, head, face and hearing.
- Do not operate the saw in loose fitting clothing.
- Be careful of branches under tension, which may spring out after being cut.
- Do not saw with the tip. If the saw is equipped with one, keep the tip guard in place.
- Ensure all gasoline-powered saws are equipped with a protective device to minimize kickback.