

Safety First Practices – Chain Saw

TAW's *Safety First Practices* is a collection of those practices which the Association believes are generally accepted by reasonable and knowledgeable practitioners of woodworking as contributing to the safety of individuals participating in or observing the practice of the craft. It is not for the Safety Committee to teach wood working but to point out the hazards of associated activities and some possible ways to reduce those risks.

It is inherent in the fluid nature of the Craft of Woodworking, and its ancillary practices and technology, that such a collection of material will always be incomplete and in flux. As such it must be considered a guide to safety and not the last word on the subject. Woodworking and many of its ancillary activities are inherently dangerous and the Association Board of Directors, Officers, Safety Committee, and Members make no warranties or assurances that following these recommendations will eliminate all risk of injury. If you are inexperienced or do not understand a recommendation consult someone experienced in the subject being discussed.

First and foremost to safety is the practice of using good judgement. You are responsible for your own Safety as well as that of those around you.

Please also read [Safety First Practices – General](#).

Starting a Chain Saw

Check controls, chain tension, and all bolts and handles to ensure that they are functioning properly and that they are adjusted according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Make sure that the chain is sharp and the lubrication reservoir is full.

Start the saw at least 10 feet from the fueling area.

Engage the chain brake.

Start the saw on the ground or on another firm support.

Drop starting is NOT safe.

Slide your forward foot into the handle to pin the saw to the ground.

Fueling a Chain Saw

Use approved containers for transporting fuel to the saw.

Dispense fuel at least 10 feet away from any sources of ignition

Never smoke during fueling.

Use a funnel or a flexible hose when pouring fuel into the saw.

Never attempt to fuel a running or HOT saw.

Chain Saw Safety

Clear away dirt, debris, small tree limbs and rocks from the saw's line of cut.

Look for nails, spikes or other metal in the tree before cutting.

Shut off the saw or engage its chain brake when carrying the saw on rough or uneven terrain.

Keep your hands on the saw's handles, and maintain secure footing while operating the saw.

Wear proper personal protective equipment. Including hand, Face/eye, leg, foot, hearing, and head protection.

Do not wear loose-fitting clothing.

Be careful that the trunk or tree limbs will not bind against the saw.

When possible use a cradle to steady the work at a comfortable height.

Watch for branches under tension, they may spring out when cut.

Avoid kick-back, do not saw with the tip.

If equipped, keep tip guard in place.

Learn correct, safe, methods before cutting trees.