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## **A Cooperative Effort**

*The Kahnawa:ke Department of Occupational Safety and Health along with Mohawk Self Insurance are working closely to reduce workplace injuries. Workplace injuries cost employers, employees, insurance providers and families thousands of dollars each year. By providing the tools through promoting safety, providing training and or training materials and continued safety awareness, together we can reduce workplace injuries.*



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# **“Safety” Is No Accident**



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**Kahnawa:ke Labor Office  
Department of  
Occupational Safety and Health**

## **Chainsaw Safety**



**A Kickback  
you Don't Want**

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# Basic Safety Tips and Techniques when using a Chainsaw

Before using any chainsaw for the first time, it is important to read the entire instruction manual and keep it in a safe place for future reference. Never allow minors to use a chainsaw unless they are a young trainee over the age of 16 years with adult supervision. **Remember** to always use the proper Personal Protective Clothing and Equipment.

## Before Starting

Check that saw is properly assembled and in good condition—refer to Instruction Manual supplied with your saw ie:

- functional chain brake, front hand guard
- Correctly mounted guide bar
- Correctly tensioned chain
- Never attempt to modify the controls or safety devices
- Check that the spark plug boot is secure. A loose boot can lead to flying sparks which may ignite escaping fuel/air mixture.
- Keep handles dry, clean and free from oil and pitch (fuel mixture).

## Starting the Engine

Move at least 3 meters away from the place where the tool was refueled prior to starting and **NEVER** in enclosed spaces.

Grip the front handle with your left hand and hold saw down with your right foot on the rear handle Pull the starter cord.

**Do not** drop-start the engine

**Do not** start the chain saw if the chain is in a cut.

## While Operating

Never allow chainsaw to run unattended.

Make sure you always have a firm and safe footing.

Do not work alone— Keep within calling distance of others in case help is needed.

Take breaks in order to prevent tiredness and exhaustion which could result in injury.

Ensure proper ventilation when working in trenches, and other confined areas. **Toxic fumes can kill!**

Do not smoke when working with or near the machine— Combustible fuel vapors may escape from the fuel system.

**Basic safety tips courtesy of STIHL Canada.  
For a full range of chainsaw safety visit**

**[www.stihl.ca](http://www.stihl.ca)**

**Always read the complete owners manual before operating any STIHL power tool.**

## Reactive Forces

The most common reactive forces are:

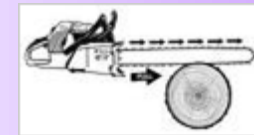
### Kickback, Pull-in, and Pushback

#### Kickback can result in fatal cuts

Kickback occurs when the saw is suddenly thrown up and back in an uncontrolled arc towards the operator.



Pull-in occurs when the chain on the bottom of the bar is suddenly pinched causing the saw to draw forward toward the log.



Pushback occurs when the chain on the top of the bar is suddenly pinched causing the saw to suddenly be driven straight back toward the operator.



## Basic PPE

Always wear safety boots, hard hat, safety glasses, face-shield, gloves and personal hearing protection—e.g., ear plugs or muffs.