



UNC
ENVIRONMENT,
HEALTH & SAFETY

Job Safety Analysis

Safety Information for The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill



GAS POWERED CHAINSAW

Title	Work Task	Hazards	Controls
Standard Operating Procedures	Initial assessment before each use. (i.e. – Check fluids, chain, loose parts) Make sure the chainsaw is in ‘OFF’ mode before inspecting.	Chainsaw blade may cut hands during inspection.	Wear proper hand protection (gloves) during the initial inspection of the chainsaw.
	Employee dons the proper Personal Protective Equipment before the job begins.	Improper Donning	The employee must have the following PPE on before operating the edger: - Eye Protection - Hand Protection - Ear Protection - Steel Toed Shoes - Chaps/Long Pants
	Employee uses the chainsaw to cut limbs, trees, etc.	Tensioning the chain. (Making sure the chain is not too loose.) Cutting the chainsaw “ON”. Flying debris.	Gloves should be worn when tensioning the chain. Make sure the blade is disengaged. The “Lock Bar” should be pushed forward to disengage the chain. Eye protection should be worn along with chaps due to flying debris.

	Work Task	Hazards	Controls
	Employee uses the chainsaw to cut limbs, trees, etc. (Continued...)	<p>Pedestrians walking by when working in particular areas.</p> <p>Fatigue from the weight of the tool.</p>	<p>When using the chainsaw, be aware of your surroundings at all times, and the position you are cutting in. When pedestrians are approaching within close proximity of the work area, cut the machine off until they pass by to prevent any debris from flying in their direction, and to avoid hitting them with the chainsaw. Have a spotter to alert the employee of a possible hazard or of pedestrians that may be approaching.</p> <p>The employee should take breaks as needed to help prevent fatigue, and possible injury. Breaks should also be taken to help the employee be aware of their surroundings and others.</p>
	<p>Working on hills and steep slopes.</p> <p>Avoid working with trees on power lines.</p> <p>Working with trees that are bowed/bent with potential energy</p>	<p>Slips/Trips/Falls.</p> <p>Electrocution Hazards</p> <p>Spring Pole Limbs</p>	<p>The employee needs to be aware of whether the surface of the area they are working around is flat, on a gradual slope, or a steep incline. Slip resistant shoes should be worn if the working area is on a slope, and/or if the area is wet.</p> <p>Do not attempt to work with trees laying on power lines. Contact electric distribution or the local power company depending on the location of the work.</p> <p>If a tree is bowed or bent and looks like it may snap to an unexpected position when cut follow DOT SOP 11B-84 (tree felling)</p>

	Replacing the chain.	Poses a hand/finger hazard (cuts) when performing maintenance. (i.e. – The chain may cut the hand or finger when being taken off or put back on.)	Hand protection must be worn while performing maintenance and replacing the chain on the chainsaw. OR Another shop area that is designated to sharpen chains/blades should be contacted to perform the work on the chainsaw.
	Work Task	Hazards	Controls
	Guard should be placed on the chainsaw before and after use. Clean and store PPE properly	Hand hazards (cuts) are present since the employee will have their hands close to the blade. Improper PPE storage	Gloves should be worn when removing the chainsaw guard or placing the guard back on the chainsaw. Store PPE in a cool, dry location
Training	Employees must have hands on training in the proper use of this piece of equipment.	Supervisor is to fill out the ‘Supervisor Led Training Form’ and turn in the form to UNC-CH Environment, Health and Safety for documentation of proper training.	
Created by	Joseph Sutton Workplace Safety Officer UNC-CH Environment, Health & Safety August 21, 2008		
Updated by	Cory Kirkland Workplace Safety Officer UNC-CH Environment, Health & Safety November 19, 2018		
Referenced Material	Refer to Manufactures Owner’s Manual for more information.		

Contact Info

For more information about this JSA and other JSAs, contact:

Department of Environment, Health and Safety

UNC-CH, 1120 Estes Drive Extension, Chapel Hill NC 27599 CB# 1650

(919) 962-5507 ☎ <http://ehs.unc.edu>



UNC
ENVIRONMENT,
HEALTH & SAFETY