

FACT SHEET

CHAINSAW OPERATION



OVERVIEW OF TOPIC

A chainsaw comes in handy on the farm but it also comes with risks. It is essential those operating it are fully trained and capable of using it, and that the correct personal protective equipment is worn, to avoid serious illness or even death.

OBJECTIVES

- 1 Learn how to safely work with a chainsaw on farm
- 2 How to apply to your farm/actions to take forward

BEST PRACTICE DETAIL

There are many things people should do before and while using a chainsaw on farm.

- Make sure you have undertaken training by a professional on how to prepare, operate and maintain the chainsaw
- Locate and ensure you are familiar with all chainsaw operations and controls
- Ensure the chainsaw is clean so you can see if there are any loose, worn or defective parts
- Inspect fuel lines, tank and area around carburettor for fuel leaks
- Check the effectiveness of chain brakes and operating controls
- Ensure all guards are fitted, secure and functional
- Check the condition of the anti-vibration mountings of the handles
- Ensure chain is sharp and correctly tensioned
- Ensure adequate personal protective equipment (head and hand protection, foot protection, eye and hearing protection and protective clothing) is worn
- Start the chainsaw on the ground, ensure no obstructions are present and the chain brake is applied
- Keep a firm grip on the chainsaw with both hands and the thumb of the hand holding the front handle wrapped around the handle

- Maintain a proper balance and secure footing
- Start the cut with the saw chain rotating at full speed and the spiked bumper in contact with the wood to be cut
- Always use a chainsaw at ground level; only professional arborists should perform work above ground level
- Be aware of the guide bar nose at all times
- Apply chain brake when saw is at rest
- Allow the unit to cool before refuelling

ACTIONS

There are actions you can take right now to ensure you are as safe as possible when next using a chainsaw on your farm.

- Ensure you and your staff are familiar with all chainsaw operations and controls
- Give the chainsaw a proper clean so you can identify any potential hazards
- Check the effectiveness of chain brakes, operating controls, anti-vibration mountings of the handles, and that guards are fitted, secured and functional
- Ensure adequate personal protective equipment (head protection, hand protection, foot protection, eye and hearing protection, sunscreen and protective clothing) is on hand and used

KEY CONTACT

For further information please contact:

Making Our Farms Safer
Victorian Farmers Federation
mofs@vff.org.au