



## Chainsaw SWP 004

### Background:

- The use of any chain saw may be hazardous. The chain has many sharp teeth. If the teeth contact your skin in any way they may cut you. The chain at full throttle can reach speeds of 45 MPH, it is important that you read & understand as well as observe the following safety precautions.
- Employees utilizing a Chainsaw must hold a valid Chainsaw Operators Certification, as well as be approved by a supervisor to operate a chainsaw. Employees must comply with all applicable Worksafe Regulations while completing any tasks with a Chainsaw.
- Employees must be familiar with the Operators Manual for the saw which they will be using, and be trained in these procedures before being fully authorized to operate a Chainsaw for the City of Nanaimo.
- Never operate chain saw by yourself, always have two people on site. Never operate a saw if you are not feeling physically and mentally competent to safely complete the task.

### Hazards:

• Kickback	• Pinched saw	• Cuts	• Flying debris	• Weather	• Noise
• Dust	• Flammable fluids	• Public	• Wasp nests	• Overhead hazards	

### PPE Required:

• Hard hat with shield	• Ear protection	• Gloves	• Whistle	• Safety footwear
• Chaps	• Hi-vis vest	• Level 1 First aid kit		• Fire Extinguisher

### Pre Set-Up:

Before operating the saw

- Inspect to make sure all safety controls are in tact.
- Trigger lock, chain catcher and chain brake should be in working order.
- Never use saw if any parts are broken or missing.
- Tag out saw and have repaired if found broken.
- Check weather conditions – don't go out in extreme weather conditions.
- Check for fluids (gas, oil) **never refuel a hot saw**, wait for it to cool down first.
- Check for appropriate file, file guide, wedges, axe , first aid kit
- Make sure saw is filed correctly ( use file guide)
- Make sure saw is running correctly
- Make sure you have appropriate signage

### Procedure:

Starting the saw

- Make sure saw is fuelled
- Turn on saw put choke on
- Always use a three point start when starting a cold saw (left hand on handle, knee on saw, pull with right hand.
- Once saw turns over remove choke and pull again
- Test chain brake by running saw at ¾ throttle, and activate the chain brake with back of hand



- When walking with saw have chain brake on or turn saw off, as well as saw facing backwards as you walk

#### Cutting instructions

- Grip: always hold saw with a firm grip using both hands when the engine is running. Place your right hand on the rear handle and throttle trigger, your left hand on the front handle bar, left hander should follow these instructions as well. Wrap your fingers and thumb around the handles. With your hands in this position, you can best oppose and absorb the push, pull and kickback forces of your saw without losing control.

#### Things to look out for when using chainsaw

- Overhead hazards
- Good escape route
- Buck to the high side so the log will not roll towards you
- Watch for loaded limbs
- Check for pivot points
- Make sure you identify the correct binds
- If you can't identify the bind always cut bottom first
- Never cut anything above shoulder height
- In the event of an emergency, turn off saw first and then take appropriate measures.

#### Post Procedure/Take Down

##### Clean up:

- Remove side plate and clean out any debris that may interfere with the chain
- Clean air filter ( blow it out or use soap and water) never use mix gas
- Make sure safety controls are working (chain catcher ,trigger lock, chain brake ,)
- Sharpen saw before putting it away
- Refuel saw

##### Summary

- **No one uses a saw alone**
- Must have valid Chainsaw Operators Certification
- Make sure saw is in good working order
- Make sure you have & wear appropriate PPE in good condition
- Make sure you check for any hazards that may be in the area before you go in to buck or limb
- Always cut from the high side as trees are unpredictable and can roll
- Make sure you have a safe escape route
- Make sure saw is put away in a clean and useable state (sharpened and fuelled)
- ALWAYS REMEMBER if you don't feel safe with the situation don't do it!! Never put yourself in danger; pass it on to a more qualified person!