

WORKER INJURED FROM CHAINSAW KICKBACK

1 Introduction

Use this story to have a conversation with your workers about:

- How an injury can affect them and their family.
- Why it's important to pay attention when working with a chainsaw.
- How chainsaws need to be maintained to prevent kickback.
- The procedures to follow if someone is hurt.

"Today we are going to discuss how to prevent kickbacks from chainsaws. We will start with the experience of one forest worker and how this injury could have been prevented. This story was shared by a forest worker in the Northwest U.S."



How can kickback be prevented?

Be Prepared

- Supervisors should show workers how and why kickback occurs.
- Maintain your saw. If your chain is dull or the depth gauge is too high, kickback can happen more easily.
- Inspect your saw before starting work. Make sure safety guards on the chainsaw are in place, and the chain brake works.
- Wear the proper protective gear, including hard hat, face shield, ear protection, chaps, gloves and boots.

2 Share Story

See back

3 Conversation questions

Ask 2 or 3

- ***"What did you notice in this story?"***
 - Worker had all the right gear: Hard hat, chaps, gloves, boots, eye protection.
 - Worker let tip of saw touch the wood.
 - Worker didn't understand what caused the kickback.
- ***"How can kickback be prevented?"***
- ***"Have you experienced anything like this? How can this type of injury affect you personally?"***
- ***"Does anyone know what our procedures are if someone is injured on the job?"***

Pay Attention

- Find a stable position so you can control the saw. Don't work off balance.
- Maintain a solid grip on the front and rear handles at all times.
- Always be aware of where the tip of the bar is. Don't let the tip of your saw contact anything – this causes kickback.
- Don't hurry. Don't compete with your co-workers.

Take Care of Yourself and Each Other

- Take rest breaks. We make more mistakes when we are tired.
- Watch out for each other and communicate about hazards you see.

2

[Share Story](#)[Read aloud or share photo story](#)

"The terrain was steep, with a lot of slash and standing dead pines. The foreman told us to be careful. I was taking down trees. I was cutting a tree, and when I started cutting, the saw jumped back on me and cut my head.

I just remember that I ended up on the ground and a coworker saw all the blood and called to the foreman. I was taken to the doctor by my supervisor about an hour later. I ended up with 25 stitches. I didn't expect it. My saw was in good shape. I have had chainsaw classes but it is not the same until you have experience.

My head still hurts and sometimes burns and stings especially when I bend over. I wake up with a headache in the morning. I haven't been back to work. My daughter was afraid of me, the way I looked. My wife worries about me."



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FOREST WORKER SAFETY TALKS

PLÁTICAS SOBRE SEGURIDAD PARA LOS TRABAJADORES FORESTALES



Available in Spanish / Disponible in English
http://deohs.washington.edu/pnash/forest_safety

