

CHAINSAW

All School of Environment chainsaw operators must be signed into the ENV Health & Safety Register.

Prior to any work being performed, any operator of the ENV chainsaw must first;

1. Have attended an approved chainsaw safety course and earned certification to Unit Standard 6916 and 6917;
2. Obtain the permission of the Health and Safety Officer and be prepared to demonstrate a satisfactory level of experience;
3. Ensure the technician in charge of the chainsaw has checked it over.
4. Has read, and is familiar with the Worksafe New Zealand COP guide to safety with chainsaws <http://www.business.govt.nz/worksafe/information-guidance/all-guidance-items/chainsaws-a-guide-to-safety-with/chainsaws2011.pdf>

All operators of the ENV chainsaw must;

1. Abide by the codes of practice in Unit Standards 6916 & 6917;
2. Be accompanied on-site by at least one person during the work, preferably first aid qualified;
3. Have a first aid kit on-site during the work;
4. Carry a cell phone or other means of communication;
5. Understand the type and capabilities of the chainsaw they are using;
6. Never operate the chainsaw when tired or otherwise impaired;
7. Check for hazards in the area before undertaking any work.

Protective Equipment

It is mandatory to wear the following equipment;

- Hearing protection – earmuffs class 5;
- Eye protection - safety goggles if dusty, visor if risk of flying debris;
- Gloves or safety mitt;
- Hard hat;
- Boots with good tread and steel caps – long preferable;
- Long heavy trousers – no shorts;
- Chainsaw Chaps that should be to standard AS/NZs 443.3:1997;
- No loose clothing.

Safety checks & Maintenance

Before use, the following checks must be made:

- Petrol – fill with 2 stroke (50:1);
- Air filter checked;
- Chainbar oil – fill;
- Check straightness and wear of guide bar;
- Tighten chain;
- Check sharpness of chain;
- Ensure all components are in the correct place;
- Check safety features.

The chainsaw will be given an annual service by a professional service agent.

Other points of significance

There are a few health hazards associated with chainsaw use that you need to be aware of:

- Exhaust fumes can make you feel drowsy and cause you to lose concentration. Use chainsaws in well ventilated areas only;
- Hearing loss can occur after just a few minutes. Wear the correct Class 5 earmuffs to prevent damage.
- Vibration disease (white finger) can be caused by excessive vibration reducing blood flow to finger extremities. Follow manufactures instructions.