



# Bucksaw Safety

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Recent deaths and injury have involved employees being struck with objects thrown from the saw and most were a result of poor set-up. Catastrophic injury or death can result from saw chain failure and this is a maintenance issue.

**What must an employee know:** Mechanical log bucking has been a tremendous gift to our industry since it has eliminated ground personnel and has greatly reduced great risk. While the bucksaw can reduce the risk on our jobs, it can also be a very dangerous tool should a malfunction take place. Bucksaw safety can be broken down into two areas: positioning the bucksaw and maintenance.

## SAFE SET-UP

- The bucksaw should be set up pointing away from the busy deck or landing area.
- The loader operator must be “out of line” of the bar and chain unit.
- Loader doors and windows must remain shut while the saw is being operated.
- Never engage the saw if machinery or people enter the “No Zone”!
- All lock and tag out procedures shall be followed during maintenance times.

## MAINTENANCE

The bucksaw is basically an “over grown” chainsaw. Basic bar and chain maintenance should be followed to avoid saw chain failure, which could result in an injury. A broken link of 11 BC chain proves to be a very lethal

projectile. If the chain doesn’t break, there is no accident!

- Make sure the saw chain is sharp. A dull chain causes undo wear to other chain components, sprockets and guide bars. Above all it is inefficient.
- Frequently inspect all chain components, which include rivets, drive links, and side straps. Check for excessive wear, cracks, or broken rivets. The chain must be put “out of service” until repairs can be made.
- Inspect drive sprockets and roller sprockets. Worn sprockets cause damage to drive links and the chassis of the saw chain.
- Inspect the guide bar for wear. Bar rails must be true. File or grind burrs from the bar. A true bar will allow the saw chain to cut straight.
- Use a good quality bar and chain oil, this will help to reduce friction, and add to the life of the bar and chain. Do not use discarded motor oil.
- All repairs are to be made with the machine locked out and tagged out.

Having an increased awareness and stressing maintenance will provide favorable results on bucksaw safety issues. We must make the right decisions. Being Pro-Active greatly reduces the risk of an accident.

<p><b>2016 Safety Meeting Record</b></p> <p>Date: _____ Company: _____</p> <p><b>Names and signatures of ALL attendees to be attached.</b></p> <p>Conducted by:(signature) _____</p>
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