



Chainsaws

Working with a chainsaw can be extremely dangerous. To help reduce the risk of serious injury you must wear the required PPE.

How can you protect yourself?

Leg protection

Wear leg protection such as pants, chaps, or an apron made of a cut-resistant material. (The term “chaps” and “aprons” are sometimes used interchangeably.)

- Check that your leg protection has a label indicating that it meets WCB Standard: PPE 1 – 1997.
- Check that the cut-resistant material protects the front and sides of your legs, from the crotch to 7.5 cm (3 in.) above your ankle.
- Make sure your garment stays in position while you are working so the cut-resistant material provides protection.
 - Consider pants because they stay in position.
 - Chaps may twist around your legs. Fasten the straps securely, and adjust them regularly to keep them in place.
- Your leg protection should be comfortable enough to allow freedom of movement but not so loose as to pose a safety risk.

Head protection

- Wear safety headgear (a hard hat) to protect against hazards such as falling or flying branches or limbs.
- Secure the chin strap when working at heights over 3 m (10 ft.) or when exposed to high winds or other conditions that might cause you to lose your hard hat.

Hearing, eye, and face protection

- Wear earmuffs or earplugs to protect your hearing from the high noise levels of a chainsaw.
- Wear safety eyewear with sideshields and a wire mesh face shield to protect against flying sawdust, wood chips, or twigs.



Hard hat with face shield, earmuffs, and eye protection with sideshields

Caulked safety boots

Pants with label and cut-resistant material

Foot protection

Wear approved chainsaw protective footwear to protect your ankles, soles, and toes. Wear caulked or other effective safety footwear when walking on logs, poles, pilings, or other round timbers.

Hand protection

Wear cut-resistant gloves that fit and grip well, and that provide vibration protection.

High visibility apparel

- Wear high visibility apparel when working on or near roadways, around mobile equipment, or in the bush so you can be seen. Make sure your high visibility clothing is not covered by other garments.
- Loose-fitting high visibility outer clothing must be “tear away” where it could get caught by branches or limbs.

Fall protection

Use a fall protection system for work 3 m (10 ft.) or more above ground, or when a fall from a lower height could lead to serious injury.

For more information go to WorkSafeBC.com, OHS Regulation Part 8.