



# Chainsaw Injuries

On and Off Duty



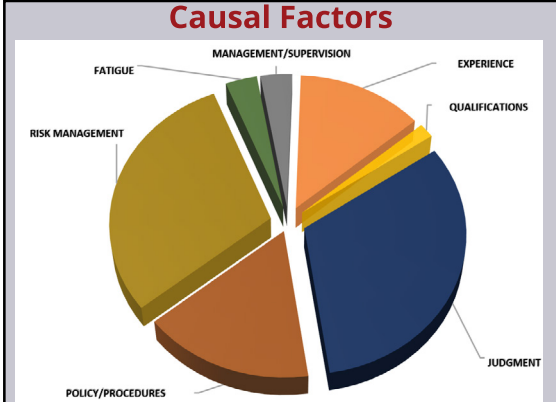
Safety & Environmental Health Bulletin

## Chainsaw Facts

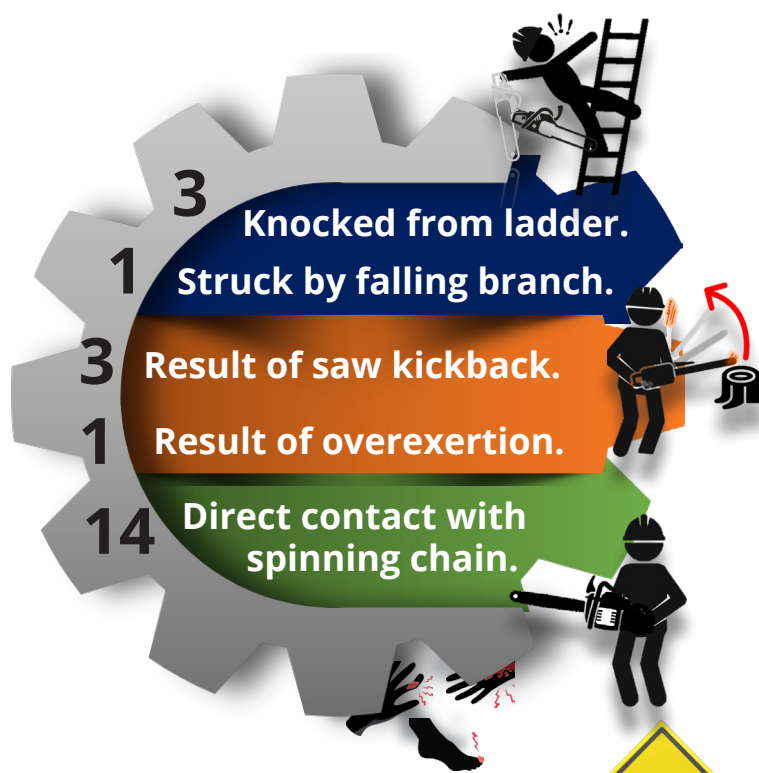
- Chainsaws come in various sizes from small electric, to battery operated, to large gas-powered models.
- The chain on a chainsaw with a standard 20" guide bar, running at full revolutions per minute (RPM), travels at 88 feet per second (FPS) or 22 rotations in a second.
- The Consumer Product Safety Commission cites chainsaws in more than 27,000 accidents annually.
  - The most serious chainsaw injuries include snags and kickbacks toward the operator's chest and head.
  - Other common injuries cited include lacerations, particularly to arms, hands, and legs.
- Safety features for chainsaws include: chain catchers, safety throttles, and chain brakes.



## Chainsaw-Related Mishaps (2012 - 2022)



## Specific USCG Injuries (2012 - 2022)



## Chainsaw Hazard Mitigation and Safety Techniques

### Practice Responsible Equipment Maintenance

- Understand and comply with manufacturer safety operations and procedures.
- Read instruction manual.
- Read and use chainsaw safety resources:
  - [OSHA: Chainsaw Safety PowerPoint](#).
  - [CDC: Chainsaw Safety](#).
- Keep chain sharpened, tensioned, and oiled.
- Practicing good maintenance:
  - Speeds cutting power.
  - Prevents kickback.
- Reduces wear on the chain and the bar on which it rides.



### Use Personal Protective Equipment

- Sturdy or steel-toed work boots.
- Cut-resistant chaps.
- Protective gloves.
- Helmet with a face shield.
- Hearing protection.

