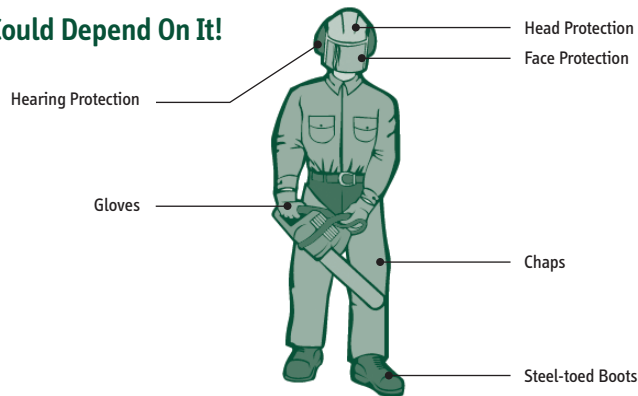


Remember

Chainsaws may seem simple to use, but using a chainsaw and clearing trees and branches are operations that require training and proper safety precautions. Before using a chainsaw, homeowners should carefully consider the need to improve their skills with a practical, hands-on training experience. Homeowners can learn both chainsaw safety and safe and efficient cutting techniques through training. These safe work practices can help homeowners to prevent injury during a storm clean-up.

Your Life Could Depend On It!



For More Information and Additional Resources

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

(<http://www.cdc.gov/nasd/docs/d001201-d001300/d001289/d001289.html>) provides a five page information booklet on chainsaw safety.

Cornell Cooperative Extension

(http://www.dnr.cornell.edu/ext/bmp/contents/diy/diy_chainsaw.htm) provides general information and several articles on various chainsaw techniques.

The Game of Logging

(<http://www.gameoflogging.com/>) offers hands-on training and participation to anyone interested in learning the safety techniques for cutting.

New York Fatality Assessment & Control Evaluation (FACE)

The New York FACE program is supported by a grant from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). Additional information can be obtained by contacting: Bureau of Occupational Health & Injury Prevention, 518-402-7900. Full FACE reports can be found at: www.nyhealth.gov/nysdoh/face/face.htm



State of New York
Department of Health



Chainsaw Safety for Homeowners

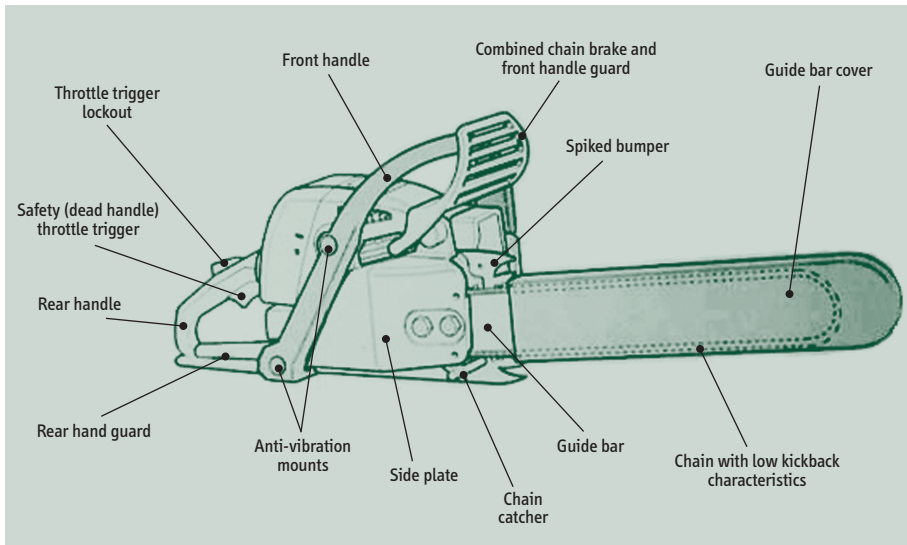
Winter ice and snow storms can leave many New Yorkers with damaged and downed trees. Post-storm cleanup and property maintenance are dangerous jobs all year round.

Many homeowners lack the experience and proper equipment to perform this type of work safely. These homeowners should consider hiring a professional tree service company to do this work.

For the homeowners who decide to perform the cleanup by themselves, safety should be the number one consideration, particularly when it comes to the use of a chainsaw. While the chainsaw is one of the most efficient and productive portable power tools, it is also the most DANGEROUS! Homeowner chainsaw users may not be aware of the safety rules that professional loggers follow for proper operation and maintenance of a chainsaw.

Pruning and removing limbs from storm damaged trees is not the same thing as cutting firewood from a tree already on the ground. Branches and trees that are twisted and bent are usually under strain that is undetectable to the untrained eye. The quick release of that stored energy by cutting with a chainsaw can result in unpredictable results.

Chainsaw Safety Features



To Prevent Fatal Chainsaw Injuries

- Read and study the operator's manual to ensure that your chainsaw is adjusted and used according to the manufacturer's specifications.
 - Follow the instructions, especially the section on preventing kickback.
 - Inspect your chainsaw before using it. A sharp and well maintained chainsaw increases productivity, decreases fatigue, and helps prevent injuries and accidents.
 - Know the safety features of your chainsaw and always check before each use to be sure they are working properly.
- Fuel your chainsaw in an open area at least 10 feet from an ignition source. Start your chainsaw at least 10 feet from the fuel container.
- Start your chainsaw on level ground or an area where you are otherwise firmly supported. If the chainsaw has a chain brake, make sure it is on when starting the chainsaw.
- Keep both hands on the chainsaw and your footing secure at all times.

Did You Know?

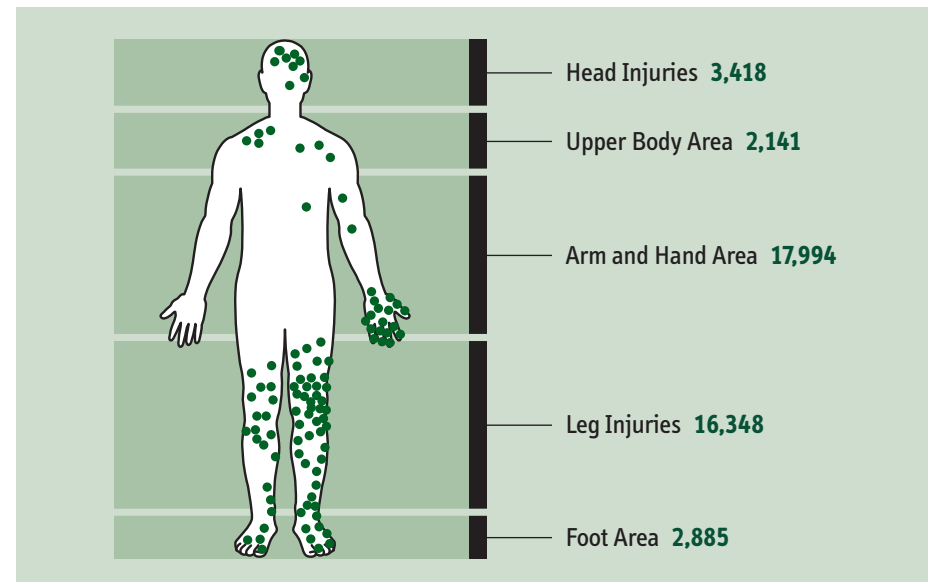
In the past five years, more than 20 homeowners in New York have been fatally injured while performing tree-related tasks.

- Clear the area of loose debris and obstacles that get in the way of cutting and retreating from falling or moving branches.
- Avoid cutting overhead.
- Stay clear of electrical power lines.
- Shut off your chainsaw or release the throttle prior to retreating.
- Shut off your chainsaw or engage the chain brake if the terrain is hazardous or if you are moving more than 50 feet.
- Use proper personal protective equipment (PPE) when operating a chainsaw. Don't just buy a chainsaw, purchase the PPE along with it.

- PPE includes: hard hat, eye-face protection, hearing protection, gloves, leg protection and foot protection.
- This safety equipment (available from most home centers, safety supply houses, or chainsaw dealers) won't prevent accidents, but may keep an accident from becoming a serious injury.
- Most injuries occur on the left leg and foot and the left arm and hand. Be sure to protect these areas well.



Accident Location and Frequency as Related to Chainsaw Use



U.S. Product Safety Commission (1994)