

## **Hedging Health & Safety Guidelines**

### **Personal Protective Equipment PPE**

While no PPE can provide 100% protection against cuts from chainsaws, when using chainsaws users should wear the following:

- A safety helmet
- Eye Protection mesh visor
- Safety goggles/ glasses
- Hearing Protection
- Suitable Gloves appropriate to the task and subject to the operator's risk assessment.
- Leg Protection and Groin Protection
- Protective Boots with good grip and protective guarding at front vamp and instep
- Non-snag outer clothing. The use of high visibility clothing may also be appropriate.

Even if you are not using a chainsaw, you should still take all precautions to protect yourselves from any branches or tools which will be around the site you are working on:

- Eye Protection
- Suitable Glove appropriate for the task
- Leg protection
- Protective boots with good grip
- Non snag outer clothing. The use of high visibility clothing may also be appropriate.

### **The chainsaw**

Only use a chainsaw if:

- The stop switch works and is clearly marked.
- The front hand guard/ chain brake, chain catcher and anti-vibration mounts are undamaged and functional.
- The throttle opens only when the throttle lock is depressed.
- It is fitted with a reduced kickback chain.
- The exhaust system and silencer are in good order.
- There is means for attaching a suitably rated or tear away lanyard to the rear of the saw
- There is a mandatory hearing protection symbol on the saw.

### **Using the saw**

Top-handled chainsaws have two handles. To maintain proper control of the saw, ensure whenever possible, that you grip both handles.

Always keep the saw well clear of yourself and all other equipment. Ensure you obtain the best available cutting position to minimise the risk of being struck by the saw (including kickback), or by severed pieces of wood.

Never 'hold and cut' a section. Do not attempt to catch a falling section.

Ensure that the chainsaw is switched off, or the chain brake applied, after each cutting operation. Do not leave the engine running for long periods when not in use.

