



# CHIPPER SAFETY

## Toolbox Talk Lesson Plan

Two-thirds of wood chipper fatalities occur when workers get caught or crushed by the chipper feed mechanism and/or get pulled into the cutting knives. Contact with chipper operating components (blades, discs or knives) may result in amputation or death. Workers may also be injured by material thrown from the machine. To minimize these hazards, use appropriate engineering and work practice controls, including training. Clearing jams while the machine is still operating or slowing down can pull you into the cutting knives.

Hazards arise when workers get too close to, or make contact with, the chipper. Before operating chipping and grinding equipment, it is important to review all safety procedures on decals and from the operator's manual and video in order to gain a complete understanding of the equipment's functions and potential hazards. Be sure that an *operator's manual* is provided with the unit for referral. If you are ever uncertain about a procedure or function of the equipment, contact your equipment dealer or manufacturer.

**Provide a copy of owner's manual.**

**Daily Inspection:** Each day before starting the machine, review all safety decals and check all engine gauges. Check, maintain, and service all safety equipment for proper operation, including the "Last Chance Stop" system, engine disable plug, control bar, hood pin, spring lock for hood pin, pusher tool, etc. Check the entire machine for loose nuts, bolts and components. Make sure all guards are tight and securely in place.

**Describe your inspections.**

**Maintenance:** Be sure to open the chipper hood and check for any foreign objects, and check the condition of the chipper disc/drum assembly. Carefully rotate the chipper disc/drum with a pry bar to ensure proper anvil clearance. If the chipper disc/drum is jammed with debris or frozen in place, do not attempt to start the engine or engage the clutch until it rotates freely. Check the condition of all fan blades, knives, anvil, and attaching hardware and properly torque knife mounting hardware. After closing the chipper hood, be sure to reinsert the hood pin and padlock, making sure the hood pin is tight and secure.

**Describe your lubrication process.**

### Safe Work Practices

- **Never reach into a chipper while it is operating.**
- Do not wear loose-fitting clothing around a chipper.
- Always follow the manufacturer's guidelines and safety instructions.
- Use earplugs, safety glasses, hard hats and gloves.
- Workers should be trained on the safe operation of chipper machines.
- Protect yourself from contacting operating chipper components by guarding the in feed and discharge ports, and preventing the opening of the access covers or doors until the drum or disc completely stops.
- Prevent detached trailer chippers from rolling or sliding on slopes by chocking the wheels.
- Maintain a safe distance (i.e., two tree or log lengths) between chipper operations and other work/workers.

When servicing and/or maintaining chipping equipment (i.e., "un-jamming") use a lockout system to ensure that the equipment is de-energized.

**Describe your LOTO procedures.**

*This lesson plan is intended for general information purposes only. It should not be construed as legal advice or legal opinion regarding any specific or factual situation. Always follow your organization's policies and procedures as presented by your manager or supervisor. For further information regarding this bulletin, please contact your Safety Director at 877.398.3046.*