



# CHAINSAW

## Safety

### Tool Box Talk

Battery-powered chainsaws offer a quieter, lighter, and more environmentally friendly alternative to gas-powered chainsaws, but still require strict safety precautions. Always check your surroundings before cutting, wear the right PPE, inspect equipment before use, and follow safe cutting techniques. Stay alert and prioritize safety to prevent accidents.

#### Pre-Use Inspection

Conduct a thorough inspection before using a battery-powered chainsaw:

- **Check the battery charge level** – Ensure the battery is fully charged and properly seated.
- **Inspect the chain tension** – It should be snug but move freely.
- **Verify the chain brake** – Ensure it engages properly.
- **Check for loose bolts and parts** – Tighten as needed.
- **Inspect the chainsaw for damage** – If damage is present fix or replace damaged area if possible. If not remove from service.
- **Test the trigger and hand brake** – Ensure they are functioning correctly.

#### Check the Area Before Cutting

Always assess your surroundings before starting the saw:

- **Identify potential hazards** – Look for unstable trees, loose branches, or power lines.
- **Check the ground conditions** – Ensure stable footing and remove tripping hazards.
- **Confirm a clear escape path** – Plan at least two exit routes in case of an emergency.
- **Look for people or animals** – Keep bystanders at a safe distance.
- **Assess tree lean and tension** – Determine how the pole may fall or if branches are under tension that could spring back.
- **Beware of electrical hazards** – Check area for any energized lines.

#### Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- **Hard hat or Safety Helmet with face shield or safety goggles** – Protects from flying debris.
- **Hearing protection** – Earmuffs or ear plugs.
- **Gloves** – Chainsaw gloves are recommended. Check local and job site requirements for level of gloves required.
- **Chainsaw chaps or pants** – Helps prevent serious leg injuries.
- **Boots** – Safety Toe boots are required. In some areas chain saw boots are required. Check local and job site requirements.

#### Safer Operation

- **Plan your cuts** – Identify potential hazards like kickback zones.
- **Maintain a firm grip** – Use both hands on the saw.
- **Stand properly** – Keep a balanced stance with feet apart.
- **Cut at waist height or lower** – Avoid overhead cutting.
- **Beware of kickback** – Keep the nose of the saw clear of obstructions.
- **Engage the chain brake** – When moving or adjusting positions.
- **Turn off the saw before making adjustments** – Battery-powered saws can start instantly, so always remove the battery during tool maintenance.
- **Identify Drop Zone** – When cutting at elevated heights, identify drop zone and ensure area is clear of people, materials, and equipment.