



# West Bay Sanitary District Code of Safe Practice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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Questions or comments regarding this  
Code of Safe Practice should be directed  
to the Regulatory Compliance Coordinator.

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## Saw, Chain Saw

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- Pre-inspect equipment including rental equipment.
- Review and understand the manufacturer's operator's manual for this equipment.
- Use adequate footwear, snug fitting clothing, eye protection, hearing protection, and head protection.
- Always use the following precautions when handling fuel and refueling the chain saw:
  - Always store gasoline in an approved container.
  - Do not smoke while handling fuel.
  - Always stop the engine to refuel the tank.
  - Beware of static electricity and sparks between saw and fuel cans (metal and plastic).
  - Avoid spilling fuel or oil. Spilled fuel should always be wiped up immediately.
  - Do not remove fuel tank cap when engine is running.
  - Move the chain saw at least 10 feet (3 meters) from the fueling point before starting the engine.
  - Keep the handles dry, clean and free of oil or fuel mixtures.
- Before you start the engine, make sure the saw chain is not contacting any object.
- Never start the chain saw until you are at the location where you intend to use the saw.
- Do not allow other persons to be near the chain saw when starting or cutting. Keep bystanders out of the work area.
- Never start cutting until you have a clear work area and secure footing.

- Always hold the chain saw firmly with both hands when the engine is running. Use a firm grip, with thumb and fingers, encircling the chain saw handles.
- Keep all parts of body away from the saw chain when the engine is running.
- Do not operate a chain saw that is damaged, improperly adjusted or not completely and securely assembled. Be sure that the saw chain stops are moving when the throttle control trigger is released.
- Do not cut with the chain saw above your head to guard against kickback and to help prevent back injuries.
- Always shut off the engine before setting down a saw.
- Use extreme caution when cutting small size brush and saplings because slender material may catch the chain saw and be whipped toward you or pull you off balance.
- When cutting a limb that is under tension, be alert for spring back so that you will not be struck when the tension in the wood fibers is released.
- All saws shall be equipped with a spark arrestor, when required.
- Operate the chain saw only in well-ventilated areas.
- The wearing of jewelry is prohibited. Jewelry includes, but is not limited to, rings, watches, neck chains and key chains on belts.
- Do not operate a chain saw unless you have been trained and qualified to do so.
- The use of chain saw leg protection is required for all ground level chain saw operations.
- Do not operate if fatigued.

## **KICKBACK**

- Kickback may occur when the nose or tip of the guide bar touches an object, or when the wood closes in and pinches the chain saw in the cut. Tip contact in some cases may cause a lightning-fast reverse reaction, kicking the guide bar up and back toward the operator. Pinching the saw chain along the top of the guide bar may push the guide bar rapidly back toward the operator. Either of these reactions may cause you to lose control of the saw, which could result in serious personal injury. Only use replacement bars and chains specified by the manufacturer. Follow the manufacturer's instruction for sharpening and maintenance of the chain saw.

## **PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT**

<b>Protection Area</b>	<b>PPE Required</b>
Eye	Safety glasses or goggles meeting the ANSI Z87.1 Standard.
Face	Face shield screen type.
Hand	Work gloves.
Head	Hardhat.

Foot	Leather steel toe safety shoes or boots.
Body	Protective clothing with long sleeve shirts and long leg pants
Respiratory	N95 dust mask to protect against saw dust when necessary.
Hearing	Wear earplugs or earmuffs as necessary.