



# SAFETY RULES FOR CHAINSAW DISPLAYS AND OTHER LIVE DEMONSTRATIONS

Since operating chainsaws and other live demonstrations have the greatest potential to cause injury, and since the sponsors of the Expo want to promote the overall image of the industry and its concern for safety, we have formulated the following rules. We have formulated these rules in consultation with chainsaw professionals and have revised them to reflect the current OSHA regulations. Show management must be notified of any accidents or incidents that happen during setup, show hours or breakdown.

## CHAINSAWS

**PROTECTIVE CLOTHING** - All personnel manning the outdoor demonstration space must wear personal protective equipment (PPE) including leg protection which covers the full length of the thigh to the top of the boot on each leg; foot protection which is resistant to the penetration of a chainsaw; head protection consisting of a hard hat meeting OSHA requirements; hearing protection of your choice when the saws are used; and eye protection which may be a screen or safety glasses. NELA recommends the use of gloves containing saw chain resistant material.

Hardhats and chaps must be made available for customers who choose to be so protected. Customers should be encouraged to don the PPE. Not only is it safer, but it also presents another sales opportunity.

**BOOTH SET-UP** - Demonstration areas must be roped off or separated by barriers. When the saws are cutting they should be running parallel to the crowd movement. There should be maximum separation between your demonstration area and the demonstration areas of the exhibitor next to you. Wood should be raised to a comfortable working height and supported in a cradle of logs or lumber.

**STARTING SAWS** - Exhibitor personnel shall start saws with the chain brake engaged. They shall be started on the ground or otherwise firmly supported (such as the crotch clamp method.) Saws should be started at least ten feet from the fueling area. Thumbs and fingers should encircle the handles during starting and operation of chainsaws. Under no circumstances will a saw be drop started.

**YOUNG OR INEXPERIENCED CUSTOMER** - Young or inexperienced customers should be closely supervised and instructed in the safe operation of the saw, including the proper grip.

**FUEL AND FUELING SAWS** - Fuel will be stored and poured from OSHA- approved safety cans. Fuel cans should be appropriately marked as to their contents and hazard, such as "GASOLINE - FLAMMABLE." Fueling will be done with the engine off and 20 feet away from flame or ignition source. It is recommended that a 10 lb. dry chemical extinguisher be located at each demo area.

**GENERAL** - The safety features of the equipment should be stressed and the proper operation should be reinforced. Each potential sale should be approached as a teaching opportunity. Use saw sheaths when appropriate. Display and store saws in a safe manner.

## OTHER LIVE DEMONSTRATIONS

**OPERATING MACHINERY** - Operating machines, such as portable band mills, wood splitters and wood elevators, where product or waste may fall on (such as chunks into a dump truck) or otherwise strike (such as with moving boards) visitors, shall be roped off or separated by barriers. Access by visitors to inspect operating equipment will be controlled and under the direction of the exhibitor.

Fuel will be stored and poured from OSHA approved safety cans. Fuel cans should be appropriately marked as to their contents and hazard, such as "GASOLINE - FLAMMABLE." Fueling should be done with the engines off. It is recommended that a 10 lb. dry chemical fire extinguisher be visibly located in the demonstration area. It is recommended that a first aid kit be available.

Where there is a potential for the release of energy in a static display, such as sudden loss of hydraulic pressure on a raised loader or grapple, or the closure of a raised inspection panel, appropriate measures will be taken to block or otherwise prevent the release of that energy. OSHA's Lockout/Tagout standard is a good source of advice for these circumstances.