

Fall against chainsaw fatal

A woman bled to death after falling against a chainsaw her husband was operating.

She was helping clear small trees from their property when she tripped on some brush. When she fell, her neck touched the chainsaw. She died from massive blood loss from an artery in her neck.

One of the most dangerous hand-held power tools, the chainsaw is used widely in the workplace and for off-the-job projects. The victims of injuries are usually the operators, but sometimes co-workers, friends or family members get hurt. To prevent such tragedies, make sure others are well out of range before starting a chainsaw. Bystanders also must respect the power of a chainsaw and stay away when it is running.

Remember these additional safety tips when operating a chainsaw:

- * Keep a firm grip on the saw with both hands when the engine is running.*
- * Make sure the area is free of any obstructions*
- * Run the chainsaw at full throttle while cutting.*
- * Do not over-reach or cut above shoulder height.*
- * Cut only one piece at a time.*
- * Keep the chain sharpened to specifications, and do all adjustments and maintenance according to the manufacturer's instructions.*
- * If you are new to chainsaws, get training from an experienced person and read the operator's manual.*
- * Wear and use personal protective equipment at all times.*