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# WELCOME!

Welcome to the Hard Hat Training Series by Safety Provisions! Today, we'll be discussing chainsaw safety.



Chainsaws are one of the most widely used power tools both in and out of the workplace. However, they can also be one of the most dangerous if you don't use them properly.

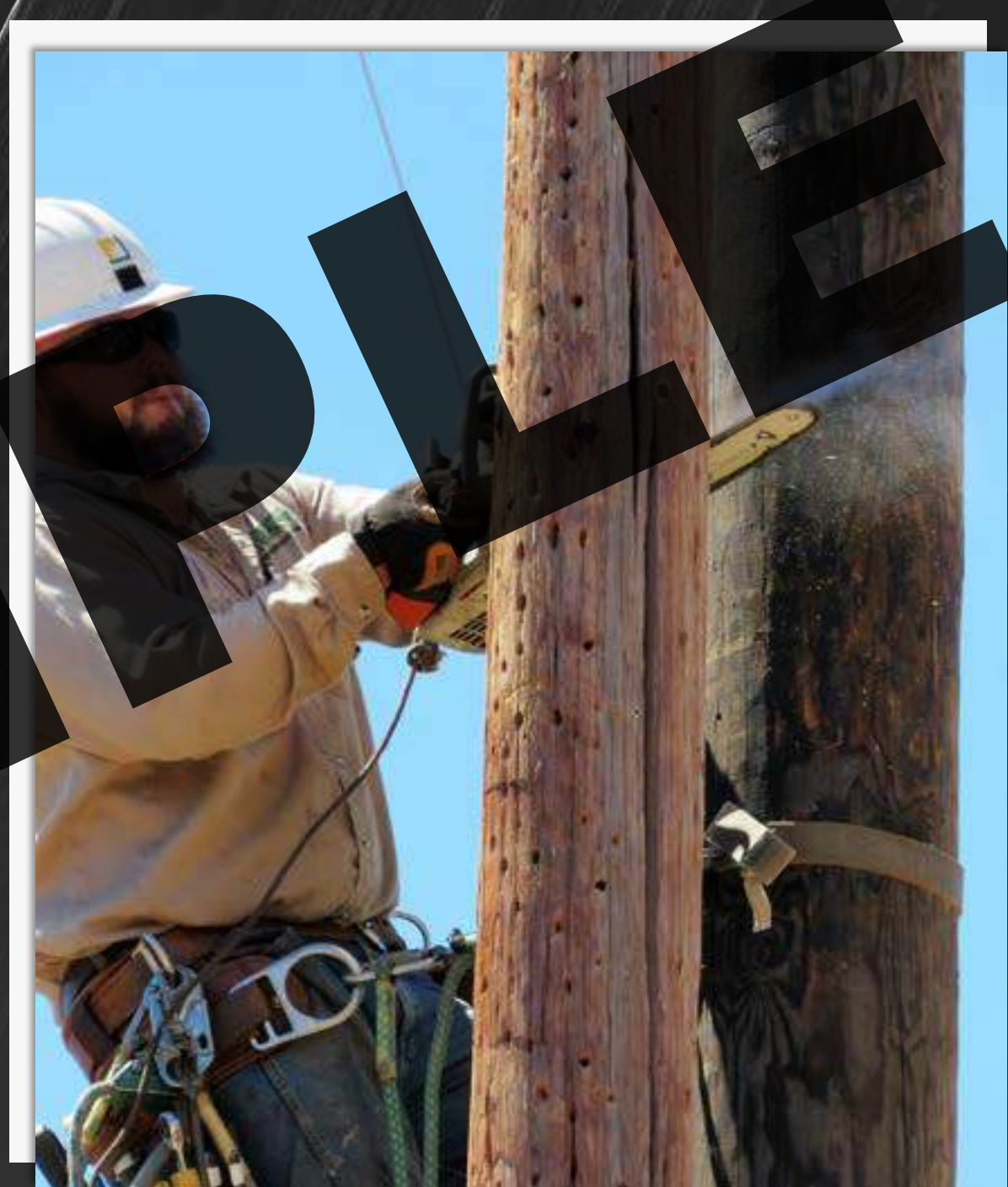






From head injuries and severed limbs, to being crushed by a falling tree, there are many dangers that are inherent with chainsaw work. With the proper planning and precautions, you can still be safe while getting your work done. The following story shows how important it is to be trained and take precautions when operating a chainsaw.

A man named Kyle was in the business of "tree surgery," cutting and trimming trees since he was 17 years old. He had nearly two decades of experience under his belt, but he had never been completely trained. He simply had the confidence and skill his employers believed he needed to work with a chainsaw at such heights.





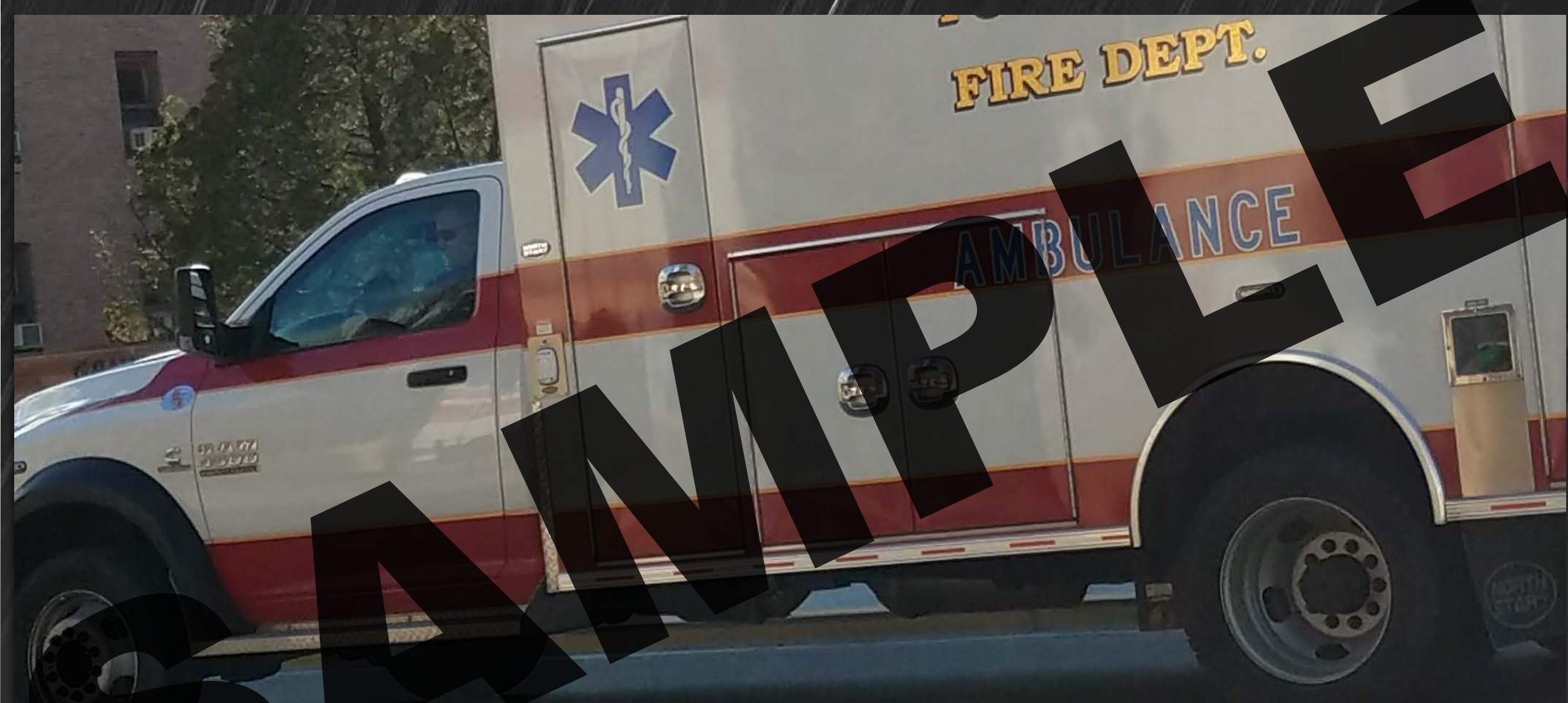
This particular day, Kyle was up about 30 feet (9.1 m) in the air, tied to the tree he was trimming limbs from. Instead of using both hands to hold his chainsaw, he held onto the tree limb with one hand and the saw with the other. This provided less control, leading to disaster.



The chainsaw suddenly whirred out of control and kicked back towards Kyle, cutting into his forearm. He was rushed to the hospital and underwent emergency surgery to try to repair his arm. The injury left him with permanent numbness in his forearm, significant scarring, and reduced grip strength.







Unfortunately, Kyle's story is not an isolated event. On average, around 36,000 people are injured by chainsaws annually. This is why it is important to be fully trained before using chainsaws, no matter how common they are.





In this training, we will start by going over the general anatomy of a chainsaw. In talking about the parts of this machine, we will also go over some of the general things to keep in mind during daily inspections and how best to perform certain maintenance tasks.



After we go over the nuts and bolts of the saw, we'll cover some of the ways you can prevent injuries such as cuts, crushing injuries, and severe muscle strains during operations. We'll cover ergonomics, PPE, and situational awareness so that you can be prepared before you ever start the chainsaw.







Finally, we'll go over some of the more specific things you can do during operations to keep yourself and others around you safe. Whether you are felling trees or cleaning up after a natural disaster, some extra planning and precautions, along with cutting techniques, can help you operate more safely overall.



Throughout this training, we will look at real, investigated accident profiles. In some cases, two or three similar accidents have been combined for the purpose of illustrating key safety principles. They will show just how quickly things can go wrong when safety procedures are ignored, resulting in injuries or fatalities.

**SAMPLE**

# STANDARDS


These are some of the main standards concerning today's topic. Many states or provinces have additional standards, as do some industries. We have provided these as a guide, but it's your responsibility to know all federal, local, and company rules that apply to your job site.



**29 CFR 1910.266(e)(2)** – Chainsaws

**241 FW 12** – Chain Saw Safety (non-fire)





No matter the situation, it's important to ask, "Where is the responsibility for training?" Employees may be deemed "qualified" based on experience, but the answer is "no." Experience helps, yes, but regulations are very clear that employees must be trained (no matter how long they've been on the job) and that it is the employer who is responsible for overseeing that safety training, ensuring employees have the understanding, knowledge, and skills needed to operate safely.

INITIAL TRAINING and REFRESHER TRAINING, as well as any WRITTEN AND PRACTICAL EVALUATIONS, must be documented and filed. At the very least, employers need to show proof of PROPER AND CONSISTENT TRAINING (in the way of TRAINING OUTLINES, CLASS LISTS, TRAINING GOALS, TESTS, CERTIFICATES, and SO ON.) These documents should include the name of the person who taught the class or conducted the evaluation.







However, training is **NOT** just a one-and-done occurrence; it is **ON-GOING**. In fact, training should take place whenever there is a demonstrated need for it.

Employees **MUST** receive **REFRESHER TRAINING** in the following instances...



# 1

There are changes in their assigned duties



# 2

# 2

There are changes regarding potential exposure hazards, for which the employee has not received training



3

5

Any deficiency has been noted in an employee's work performance that is related to the safety and health of themselves or other workers



# 4

# \$

An accident has occurred, or an employee  
has been injured (or nearly injured) during  
operations

The extent of training will be determined by the employer, but at the very least it should include **CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION** followed by a **WRITTEN AND PRACTICAL EXAMINATION** that prove continued competency.







# Anatomy

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