

Chainsaw & Tree Clearing Safety After Storms

Why It Matters:

Storm-damaged trees can be unpredictable, and improper chainsaw use leads to serious injuries or even fatalities.

Key Safety Points:

- Wear PPE-helmet, gloves, safety glasses, chaps, and steel-toe boots.
- Always assess the tree before cutting. Look for tension, broken limbs, and power lines.
- Keep both hands on the saw and maintain a firm stance.
- Never cut above shoulder height-kickback can be deadly.
- Use a spotter and maintain a clear escape path in case the tree shifts.

Real-Life Risks:

- Many injuries occur when logs roll unexpectedly or chainsaws kick back.
- Farmers have been electrocuted while clearing trees that fell on power lines.

Discussion Questions:

- Have you ever experienced a close call while clearing storm debris?
- What safety measures should be in place before using a chainsaw?