

# Chainsaws Ease Tree Maintenance Chores

A chainsaw can be a valuable tool to the golf course superintendent who must maintain a course with an average to large number of trees. In addition to felling dead or diseased trees, a chainsaw can be a great timesaver in tree maintenance - trimming and removing limbs and cutting up branches on the ground, for example. There are a number of rules that should be followed, however, to keep the use of a chainsaw safe.

\*Kickback - the sudden thrust of the saw back toward the operator - occurs when the top of the chain or the end of the saw catches in a cut or on an unseen limb. To minimize this hazard, teach the chain saw operator to stand off to one side of the operating saw and to grip the saw handles securely. Being prepared for possible kickback is the best injury preventative.

If you are in the market for a new saw, look for "anti-kickback" chains and metal guards that fit on the end of the bar, keeping the tip from accidentally catching on anything. These guards can be removed if the full length of the bar is required for cutting.

\*Be sure that the chain is snug. A chain that's too loose or too tight is hazardous. The chain should slide freely without binding.

\*Be sure the chain is sharp. Once an hour while using the saw is not too often to check this. A sharp chain is easy to use and carves out clean chips. A dull chain needs pressure to cut and produces dust-like chips. You can do routine sharpening yourself with a file guide designed especially for your chain size and tooth angle. You must use a straight chainsaw file, not a rattail file.

\*Wear gloves when handling the saw. They guard against burns from the hot motor and abrasions from the sharp saw teeth.

\*Be careful when fueling a saw. Loosen the gas cap slowly, guarding against gasoline spray from built up vapor pressure. Fill the saw away from flammables, especially sawdust, and put out all cigarettes.

\*Always shut off the saw when moving around the site. Don't take a chance on losing your footing and injuring yourself.

\*Above all, think before you act.

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## MAGAZINE CHANGES NAME

The world's leading journal of golf course management and turfgrass science, THE GOLF SUPERINTENDENT, has been renamed GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT effective with the January 1979 issue.

President George Cleaver stated, "Increasing use of golf courses worldwide and a advancement in the science of golf course maintenance have caused the responsibilities of the golf superintendent to change markedly. The change of name to GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT more accurately expresses the service the magazine provides to its readers each month."