



GHTA Chainsaw Safety Policy

**The Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association Inc.'s Chainsaw Safety Policy
has been created to ensure all trail maintenance
using a chainsaw is done in a safe manner.**

All chainsaw operators should read and understand their Owner's Manual Standard Operating Procedures, for the chainsaw that they will be operating. Also refer to the "Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety" for more safety tips.
https://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/safety_haz/chainsaws/safeuse.html

Only competent and properly equipped Volunteers with appropriate experience are to operate a chainsaw while working on our trail maintenance activities. Volunteers are required to sign the GHTA waiver form before starting.

It is recommended that there is a first aid responder with an up to date first aid kit available when doing trail maintenance involving chainsaw work, and that normal emergency procedures be followed in case of an accident. An Incident Report (posted on the GHTA Resources website https://ganaraska-hiking-trail.org/?page_id=42) needs to be filed with the GHTA executive in case of medical attention.

The following safety protocols are considered best practices in the safe operation of chainsaw equipment and are provided to ensure the safety of our Volunteers. It is expected that:

- Volunteers will bring their own equipment in good working condition and with sharpened chains.
- Inspect their chainsaw before use and remove it from service immediately if any defects are evident that could affect its safe operation.
- Wear all appropriate Personnel Protective Equipment when operating a chainsaw: chainsaw chaps (mandatory), glasses, helmet, ear protection, face shield, gloves, safety shoes / boots.

- Never wear loose clothing, unbuttoned jackets, flared sleeves and cuffs, scarves, tie strings, cords, chains, jewelry, etc. when operating a chainsaw.
- Never start a chainsaw when it is resting against any part of your body.
- Never stand directly behind the saw.
- Never leave a saw running unattended.
- Never carry a chain saw while it is running.
- Avoid contact with the muffler. Serious skin burns may result.

*Volunteers may remove **fallen trees**, but any leaning trees or hanging limbs should be cut by professional contractors. Also, in County of Simcoe Forests, we are not allowed to cut any trees larger than 10 cm in diameter, as per our Property Use Agreement.*

- Always work with at least one assistant who can be a lookout and help with moving the cut wood.
- Before removing a fallen tree, inspect the area to identify any dead trees (leaners) and hanging limbs.
- Clean up around the fallen tree first to create a safety zone.
- Prepare an escape route before cutting commences.
- Allow the chainsaw operator room to work: Avoid standing within a 2 metre (6 feet) radius from the operator or at a 45-degree angle relative to the operator when the chainsaw is in operation.
- Display signage or station a lookout person at least 20 metres (60 feet) in both directions of chainsaw operation to alert other people on the trail that tree cutting is being done.
- Take rest times during work as to not overexert yourself.

*** Adapted from the Bruce Trail Conservancy Chainsaw Guidelines.