



## Chipper Machines

Chipper machines chop larger tree limbs into small chips quickly, which means workers who use the equipment need to be alert and observe safety to avoid serious injuries, amputations or death.

### Machinery Hazards

- Contact with or being pulled into the chipper
- Face, eye, head or hand injuries; hearing loss
- Awkward postures while lifting, handling and feeding materials into chipper
- Material may be thrown from machine

### Safety Practices, Tips

- Inspect equipment before each use to ensure all safety features are in good working condition and in place. Guard the infeed and discharge ports; prevent the opening of access opening until the chipper is stopped completely.
- Never remove a safety device. Immediately report a missing or broken safety device to your supervisor.
- Be sure you are trained properly on chipper machinery; always supervise new workers on chippers.
- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) – safety eyeglasses, earplugs, hard hats and gloves; don't wear loose clothing or jewelry around a chipper.
- Follow manufacturer's operational, inspection and safety guidelines.
- Maintain a safe distance – two or three tree or log lengths – between chipper operations and other workers or work areas.
- When servicing, clearing a jam or maintaining a chipper use a lockout/ tagout safety system to ensure it is de-energized.

## Safe Feeding Tips

- Feed material into chipper from the side of the infeed chute to minimize being struck by flying material.
- Always feed the larger end of the branches into the chipper first; the feed wheels will open up to allow smoother operation.
- When feeding large limbs into a rotary drum chipper, hold the brush end of the limb higher than the butt. The limb will slide forward into the blades. When feeding small limbs, throw them into the blades. In both cases, operators should let go of the brush before their hands cross the plane of the hopper and before the brush hits the blades.
- After feeding material into chipper, pivot your body and turn your face away in one continuous motion.

Sources: OSHA; Tree Care Industry Association; Professional Landcare Network/OSHA Alliance

Safety tips developed based on generally accepted safety standards believed to be reliable at the date of publication. Information is for general guidance only and should not be relied upon for legal compliance purposes.

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