

**STANDARDS PRESENTATION  
TO  
CALIFORNIA OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH STANDARDS BOARD**

TITLE 8, DIVISION 1, CHAPTER 4

Article 12. Tree Work, Maintenance or Removal

Amend Section 3420 to read:

§3420. Scope and Definitions.

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(b) Definitions.

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Double-crotching. A climbing method that uses the rope's opposite end or a second rope to enhance stability.

Drop starting. The act of starting a power saw by simultaneously pushing the saw away from the body with one hand while pulling on the starter cord handle with the other.

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NOTE: Authority cited: Section 142.3, Labor Code. Reference: Section 142.3, Labor Code.

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TITLE 8, DIVISION 1, CHAPTER 4

Amend Section 3425 to read:

§3425. Portable Power Hand Tools.

(a) Power Saws.

(1) Power saws shall be operated and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

(2) A power saw shall be started on the ground or where it is otherwise firmly held or supported to prevent unintended movement of the saw. ~~Drop starting of saws over 6.8 kilograms (15 pounds), other than chain saws, is permitted outside of the bucket of an aerial lift only if the area below the lift is clear of personnel.~~ Chain saws shall not be drop started. Power saws shall not be started from an elevated position unless the area below is clear of personnel.

(3) Power saws weighing more than fifteen pounds (service weight) that are used in trees shall be supported by a separate line or tool lanyard, except when working from an aerial-lift device or during topping or removing operations where no supporting limb is available.

~~(3)~~(4) All power saws shall be equipped with a constant pressure control that will return the saw to idling speed when released.

~~(4)~~(5) A power saw engine shall not be started and operated unless all employees other than the operator are clear of the saw.

~~(5)~~(6) A power saw shall not be running when the saw is being carried up into a tree by an employee.

~~(6) Power saws weighing more than fifteen pounds (service weight) that are used in trees shall be supported by a separate line or tool lanyard, except when working from an aerial lift device or during topping or removing operations where no supporting limb is available.~~

(7) Power saws shall be equipped with a clutch and be so adjusted that the chain drive will not engage at idling speed.

(8) Power saw engines shall be stopped when carried for a distance greater than 100 feet, or in hazardous conditions such as slippery surfaces or heavy underbrush. Chain brakes shall be engaged or the saw engine stopped when the saw is carried a distance greater than 10 feet.

(9) The saw shall be stopped for all cleaning, refueling, adjustments, and repairs to the saw or engine where practicable, except where manufacturers' instructions require otherwise.

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(10) Tree workers shall use a second point of attachment such as a work-positioning lanyard or double-crothed rope when operating a chain saw in a tree, unless the employer demonstrates that a greater hazard is posed by using a second point of attachment while operating chain saws in that particular situation.

(11) While a powered pole saw or brush saw is running, no one shall be permitted within 10 feet of the cutting head, except the operator.

(12) Powered saws shall be equipped with a quick shutoff switch readily accessible to the operator.

NOTE: Authority cited: Section 142.3, Labor Code. Reference: Section 142.3, Labor Code.