Chainsaws – Landscaping Stats and Facts



FACTS

The primary hazards associated with chainsaw use can be grouped into several categories:

1. **Physical Injuries:** Chainsaws can cause severe lacerations or cuts, often leading to significant blood loss.
2. **Kickback Injuries:** This occurs when the tip of the chainsaw's guide bar strikes an object or becomes pinched, causing the saw to suddenly and forcefully kick back toward the operator.
3. **Hearing Loss:** Prolonged exposure to the high decibel levels of a chainsaw can cause permanent hearing loss if proper ear protection is not used.
4. **Vibration Injuries:** Extended use of chainsaws can lead to hand-arm vibration syndrome (HAVS).
5. **Musculoskeletal Disorders:** Improper lifting techniques, awkward positions, and extended use can lead to strains, sprains, and other musculoskeletal injuries.
6. **Falls:** When using a chainsaw on a ladder or in a tree, the risk of falling is high.
7. **Fire Hazards:** Chainsaws can produce sparks, especially when cutting metal or dry wood, which can ignite a fire in dry conditions.
8. **Chemical Exposure:** Chainsaws run on gasoline and use oil for lubrication, both of which are hazardous chemicals.

STATS

- Annual Injuries: In the United States, there are approximately 36,000 chainsaw-related injuries reported each year, with an annual medical cost exceeding $350 million.
- Emergency Visits: From 2010 to 2019, there were about 282,000 emergency department visits due to chainsaw injuries in the U.S., averaging around 28,000 visits per year. Most of these injuries (about 94%) did not require hospital admission, although they still involved significant trauma.
- Common Injury Sites: Injuries often affect the hands and fingers (33%), knees (20%), and lower legs (14%). These injuries typically occur during activities like tree felling, bucking, and limbing.
- Fatal injuries from chainsaw accidents are relatively rare compared to nonfatal injuries, with fewer than 30 deaths annually in the U.S.
- In Canada, while specific annual figures are harder to pinpoint, the risk and incidence rates are similarly high given the widespread use of chainsaws in

forestry and landscaping industries.