

# Wood Chipper Safety Stats and Facts



## FACTS

- Woodchippers are extremely powerful and efficient machines that allow landscapers and cleanup crews to remove and dispose of trees, bushes, and other yard waste in a quick and cost-effective manner.
- Woodchippers are capable of causing devastating injuries to workers when they are not used properly, or they fail to operate safely due to a defect or design flaw.
- The combination of speed and torque allows commercial woodchippers to pull in branches at 20 inches per second.
- Fatalities can occur in the operation of wood chipping operations and also cause injuries from flying wood chips and the noise generated by the machine.

## STATS

Analysis of Bureau of Labor Statistics data regarding deaths and injuries caused by wood chippers by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) shows:

- 31 occupational injury deaths were attributable to mobile wood chippers (about three per year).
- 68% of the deaths were the result of being caught or compressed by the chipper.
- 29% were the result of being struck by the machine or a machine part.
- A third of these deaths each year happen during July and August.
- 2,042 non-fatal injuries resulted from working with chippers (about 200 per year).
- Over a five-year period, 155 of these cases ended in amputations, and.
- About a third of those injured had been on the job for less than a year when injured (16% less than three months, 18% 3-11 months).