

Subject: Hand and Portable Powered Tools

Page 2 of 4

Date: 10-28-02

- J) Every attempt shall be made to remove obstructions from the work area before operation of the power tool begins.
- K) Before making adjustments, adding attachments, changing blades, bits or chains, the tool shall be shut off and its energy source removed.
- L) The firefighter shall be certain of their footing and balance before starting to perform their assigned task.
- M) Think safety.

28.05 Gasoline Powered Tools and Equipment.

- A) Never operate a gasoline-powered tool where there is hazard of flammable vapors, gases, or dusts.
- B) Store gasoline only in approved gasoline storage containers.
- C) Keep open flames and sparks away from the fuel tank and gasoline storage container. Equipment shall be fueled at least 10 feet from any open flame or other source of ignition.
- D) Prior to refueling, the tool or piece of equipment shall be turned off and permitted to come to a complete stop.
- E) TFD strongly encourages all firefighters while operating gasoline powered tools and equipment to wear hearing protection.

1) Chain Saws

- a) All firefighters operating chain saws shall at a minimum wear the following PPE, a helmet with face shield, or approved hard hat, safety glasses and/or goggles, leather work boots at least 6" high with chaps or fire department boots with bunker pants, and gloves.
- b) It is the responsibility of the personnel from each station to maintain the chain saw PPE in good operating condition and to report any problems or loss to the Battalion Chief of his/her station. This gear shall be kept ready for use in the event of a response.
- c) Chain saws must be started with the chain brake engaged and at least 10 feet from the fueling area.

Subject: Hand and Portable Powered Tools

Page 3 of 4

Date: 10-28-02

- d) The chain saw shall be started on the ground or where otherwise firmly supported. Drop starting a chain saw is prohibited.
- e) Chain saws must be shut off or the chain brake engaged when carried more than 50 feet or less if the ground is slippery or there are obstructions such as thick underbrush.
- f) The running conditions of a chain saw shall be checked on the ground before raising it to an elevated work position.
- g) A chain saw shall not be raised or lowered with the motor running.
- h) Firefighters shall not approach a chain saw operator within reach of the saw while the saw is in operation.
- i) The chain saw shall not be used in a position or at a distance that could cause the operator to become off-balance, to have insecure footing, or to relinquish a firm grip on the saw.
- j) Firefighters shall always be on the look out for electrical wires both overhead, within the branches of the tree or lying on the ground when operating a chain saw.

28.06 Electrical Powered Tools.

- A) Never operate an electric powered tool where there is a hazard of flammable vapors, gases, or dusts unless such tool is specifically designed for such operation.
- B) Visually inspect the electrical cord for damage before use. If it is damaged, do not use it.
- C) Do not abuse the electrical cord.
- D) Use safety features like three-prong plugs, double insulated tools, ground fault circuit interrupters, and safety switches.

Subject: Hand and Portable Powered Tools
Page 4 of 4
Date: 10-28-02

28.07 Pneumatic and Hydraulic Tools.

- A) The manufacturer's stated safe operating pressure for hoses, pipes, valves, filters and other fittings shall not be exceeded.
- B) Pneumatic tools shall never be pointed at another person.
- C) When utilizing hydraulic jacks, once the load has been raised it shall be cribbed, blocked, or otherwise secured immediately.