

T² ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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PRACTICE GOOD HUMOR

Allistair Cooke wrote: "In the best of times our days are numbered anyway. And so it would be a crime against nature for any generation to take the world crisis so solemnly that it put off enjoying those things for which we were presumably designed in the first place...the opportunity to do good work, to fall in love, to enjoy friends, to hit a ball, and to bounce a baby."

Practicing good humor will help you to get more done in less time, with less stress.

Have you laughed today? Your children have. You should too.

Don Wetmore-Professional Speaker

Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department
Planning and Research Division
Technology Transfer Program
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The Cleveland County Courthouse at Rison
(Constructed 1911)



Technology Transfer Newsletter

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CHAINSAW SAFETY



When clearing debris after a storm, removing dead trees, or cutting firewood, chainsaws save time. But as the American Red Cross points out, "it can be unforgiving and lethal, causing injury or death in the hands of an uninformed and unaware operator." In natural disasters, the American Red Cross offers this reminder: More injuries occur during clean up after a storm than during the storm.

According to the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC), there were more than 32,000 chainsaw injuries during 2005. Of those injured, 1,149 people were seriously injured, requiring hospitalization, or were killed. Chainsaw accidents comprise 11 percent of all injuries involving yard and garden equipment, according to the CPSC review for 2004.

According to George Maher, Agriculture Safety Specialist at North Dakota State University, following these safety guidelines can substantially decrease chainsaw injuries.

GENERAL SAFETY TIPS

- Use proper clothing and equipment. People employed as chainsaw operators are required to wear a helmet system consisting of head, face and hearing protection; cotton or leather gloves; chainsaw protective chaps or pants (UL Listed); and a pair of chainsaw protective work boots with steel toes. (OSHA Reg. 1910.266)
- Read the operator's manual. Become familiar with the recommended safe operating procedures.
- Use the chainsaw when in top physical and mental condition. Medications, alcohol and fatigue are factors that contribute to injuries.
- Use the proper saw and get training from someone who is experienced with the type of chainsaw to be used. Lightweight saws (8 to 12 in. guide bar) are best for cutting small branches and felling very small trees up to 10" in diameter. Mid-weight saws (14 to 20 in.

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- guide bars) should be used for frequent log cutting and felling trees up to 18" in diameter. Heavyweight saws (guide bars longer than 20") are for professional use.
- Perform regular maintenance on the saw. Sharp teeth ensure the saw will cut quickly, smoothly and more safely. Always wear gloves or cover the chain with a heavy rag when sharpening the saw teeth. Proper chain tension helps increase chain life and safe cutting. A chain that is too loose tends to derail and whip around. If a chain is too tight, it may bind and wear prematurely. Chains stretch with use and need to be readjusted frequently. Change air filters and spark plugs regularly, and lubricate the saw according to the manufacturer's instructions.
 - Use both hands when starting and operating the chainsaw. Hold the saw with one hand, gripping the top handles firmly and pull the starter rope with the other.

ADDITIONAL REMINDERS

- Never make cuts with the saw between your legs.
- Don't stand on a log and saw between you feet.
- Always stand to one side of the limb you are to cut. Never straddle it.
- Always keep in mind where the chain will go if it breaks. Never position yourself or other people in line with the chain.
- Keep the chain out of dirt. Debris will fly, and the teeth will be dulled and chain life shortened considerably.
- Carry the chainsaw with the engine off.
- Fill a gas-powered chainsaw only when the engine is cool.

KICKBACK SAFETY TIPS

Kickback of a chainsaw occurs when the teeth on the chain catch on something as they rotate around the tip of the blade. The teeth may have enough force to cause the blade to kick back violently. Three situations cause this: When the nose of the blade strikes another object, starting a bore cut improperly, or when the blade nose or tip catches the bottom or side of a saw cut during reinsertion.

The best defense against kickback is to keep the

tip guard on the chainsaw. If this is not possible, keep a firm hold on the saw and use a saw that has a chain brake or kickback guard. Don't saw with the tip. Use a high chain speed when reinserting the blade in a cut or when removing it. Keep the saw teeth sharp. Always cut below shoulder height. This makes the saw easier to control, and keeps it away from the operator's face.

For more information:

Please go to the website of the manufacturer, the American Red Cross, or visit the North Dakota State University Agriculture Safety website: www.ag.ndsu.edu/pubs/ageng/safety/ae1025w.htm

This article was reprinted from the Oklahoma LTAP News, "2006 The Year in Review." Permission to reprint granted by the Oklahoma LTAP Center.

NEW MESSAGE BOARDS WILL ALERT MOTORISTS

Motorists traveling the highways in Central Arkansas have likely seen electronic message boards springing up over the last several months. Those new boards represent the second and final phase of an electronic message system for the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) that will help motorists evacuate the Central Arkansas area in case of a catastrophic event at the Pine Bluff Arsenal.



Interstate 430 in Little Rock

The AHTD worked with the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management and CSEPP, a Federal program, to improve safety in the area of the arsenal.

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UPCOMING EVENTS



9th Annual MS4 Operators Conference



June 18 - 22, 2007
Rogers, Arkansas

Embassy Suites Hotel & John Q. Hammons Convention Center

Hotel - Embassy Suites \$139/night. Government Rates Available.
Hotel Codes: SG-1 for government room rates. SW-1 for all other rooms.
Contact Information: Terry Branch, EPA: 214.665.6667 or
Jennifer Bonner, Chair: 479.621.1186
Jeff Roberts, Vendors: jroberts@bentonville.com
Embassy Suites: 800.362.2779

Conference Registration: \$200.00 for week (Monday to Friday)
Make checks and PO payable to: NWARPC
Send to: Attn: Donna Marrs 1311 Clayton Street, Springdale, AR 72762

National Public Works Week

Sponsored by APWA since 1960
2007 theme:

"Public Works: Moving Life Forward"

May 20-26, 2007

www.apwa.net/npww

APWA Spring Meeting

May 23-25, 2007

Hot Springs Convention Center, Hot Springs, Arkansas

Contact: Barbara Richard (501-340-6800)

brichard@co.pulaski.ar.us

Contact: Warren Atkins (501-888-4299)

Watkins@littlerock.org

County Judges Association

2007 Annual Spring Meeting

June 20-22, 2007

Holiday Inn West Memphis
(870)735-4055 for reservations



Interstate 30 in North Little Rock

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Phase One of the program erected signs on major routes in Jefferson and Grant Counties and the surrounding area where the CSEPP program is concentrated.

For Phase Two, signs are being installed in Pulaski County on Interstates 30, 40, 430, 440 and 630 as well as on Highway 67/167. Once completed, they will be used to manage traffic flow in case of an incident at the Arsenal. In addition, they can be utilized as part of the Morgan Nick AMBER Alert System that broadcasts information about missing children. The signs will also be used to alert motorists to major traffic accidents and major road closures.

"Many of the message boards will be integrated with existing overhead signs," stated AHTD Director Dan Flowers. "Others will be stand alone signs in the median."

In addition to the electronic message boards, beacon lights will be erected at four CSEPP evacuation centers including Barton Coliseum in Little Rock, North Little Rock High School, the Arkansas Army National Guard Armory in Sheridan and the Pine Bluff Convention Center.

The AHTD has a \$2.2 million construction contract with Time Striping for Phase Two of the project. The signs should all be in place by May. Emergency responders will then conduct exercises to test the message system.

CSEPP also works closely with seven other sites in the United States where chemical stockpiles are stored.