Remember
Chainsaws may seem simple to use, but using a chainsaw and clearing trees and branches are operations that require training and proper safety precautions. Before using a chainsaw, homeowners should carefully consider the need to improve their skills with a practical, hands-on training experience. Homeowners can learn both chainsaw safety and safe and efficient cutting techniques through training. These safe work practices can help homeowners to prevent injury during a storm clean-up.

Your Life Could Depend On It!

For More Information and Additional Resources

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
(http://www.cdc.gov/nasd/docs/d001201-d001300/d001289/d001289.html)
provides a five page information booklet on chainsaw safety.

Cornell Cooperative Extension
(http://www.dncornell.edu/ext/bmp/contents/diy/diy_chainsaw.htm)
provides general information and several articles on various chainsaw techniques.

The Game of Logging
(http://www.gameoflogging.com/) offers hands-on training and participation to anyone interested in learning the safety techniques for cutting.

For the homeowners who decide to perform the cleanup by themselves, safety should be the number one consideration, particularly when it comes to the use of a chainsaw. While the chainsaw is one of the most efficient and productive portable power tools, it is also the most DANGEROUS! Homeowner chainsaw users may not be aware of the safety rules that professional loggers follow for proper operation and maintenance of a chainsaw.
To Prevent Fatal Chainsaw Injuries

- **Read and study the operator’s manual** to ensure that your chainsaw is adjusted and used according to the manufacturer’s specifications.
  
  - Follow the instructions, especially the section on preventing kickback.
  
  - Inspect your chainsaw before using it. A sharp and well maintained chainsaw increases productivity, decreases fatigue, and helps prevent injuries and accidents.
  
  - Know the safety features of your chainsaw and always check before each use to be sure they are working properly.

- **Fuel your chainsaw in an open area** at least 10 feet from an ignition source. Start your chainsaw at least 10 feet from the fuel container.

- **Start your chainsaw on level ground** or an area where you are otherwise firmly supported. If the chainsaw has a chain brake, make sure it is on when starting the chainsaw.

- **Keep both hands on the chainsaw** and your footing secure at all times.

**Chainsaw Safety Features**

- Throttle trigger lockout
- Safety (dead handle) throttle trigger
- Rear handle
- Rear hand guard
- Anti-vibration mounts
- Side plate
- Chain catcher
- Chain with low kickback characteristics
- Guide bar
- Guide bar cover
- Combined chain brake and front handle guard
- Rear hand guard
- Spiked bumper

Pruning and removing limbs from storm damaged trees is not the same thing as cutting firewood from a tree already on the ground. Branches and trees that are twisted and bent are usually under strain that is undetectable to the untrained eye. The quick release of that stored energy by cutting with a chainsaw can result in unpredictable results.

Did You Know? In the past five years, more than 20 homeowners in New York have been fatally injured while performing tree-related tasks.

**Accident Location and Frequency as Related to Chainsaw Use**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Body Area</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Head Injuries</td>
<td>3,418</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Body Area</td>
<td>2,141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arm and Hand Area</td>
<td>17,994</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leg Injuries</td>
<td>16,348</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foot Area</td>
<td>2,885</td>
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