Cutting Down on Chainsaw Injuries Fatality File



Anderson man killed in accident while working for tree cutting service

A man was killed after he fell 30 feet while working for a tree cutting service, according to the Anderson County Coroner Greg Shore.

A section of the tree fell on the lift bucket the man was in, causing him to fall out.

Jacob Williams, 64, of Anderson was working at 1305 West Franklin St. when the accident happened around 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 23. Williams suffered cardiac arrest along with traumatic injuries. He was taken to AnMed Health Medical Center and died about an hour after the accident.

A worker was using a chainsaw to trim the ends off spacers used to separate layers of lumber in preparation for drying in a kiln. He was working alone although other workers were close by. He was not wearing protective clothing and there was no chain guard or anti-kickback device on the chainsaw he was using.

One of the spacers that he was cutting was apparently loose in the pile and the saw kicked back striking him on the right side of the neck. A deep laceration on his neck to the depth of his spinal cord resulted in death.

Chainsaws were once a tool used only by professional loggers, but it is now estimated that 90 per cent of chainsaws are sold outside of the logging industry.

A chainsaw should be treated like a loaded gun! Bystanders should always keep a safe distance from the operator. And the operator should protect himself as though he was at war!

Despite the fact that any chainsaw can be a killer, too many users ignore this fact and operate them in a careless manner.

Many owners even fail to read the safety tips in their operator’s manuals, and too often, when a saw is resold, the manual does not go with it. Most saws today

incorporate several safety features that, when working properly, provide a good measure of safety for the operator.