

# Portable Sawmill Safety





## INTRODUCTION



Your portable sawmill is a powerful machine. The manufacturer has tried to make it as safe as possible but you must take every precaution to ensure your safety and the safety of any others while operating the mill or working near it.

## Portable Sawmill Safety

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### OPERATOR'S MANUAL



Read the Operator's Manual before operating your sawmill. Take notice of the safety warnings in the manual and those posted on the machine. Only persons who have read and understood the entire Operator's Manual should operate the sawmill.

### CIRCLE CHECK



- Do a complete circle check of your sawmill before each operation.
- Look for leaks.
- Check logs for nails or other embedded material.
- While the sawmill is operating, take time on a regular basis to check for blockage or debris and to clean up the job site.
- Lock out the machine if there is a chance of being exposed to any moving parts.

# Portable Sawmill Safety

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## WHEN OPERATING YOUR MACHINE



- Secure loose clothing and wear all appropriate personal protective equipment outlined in the operator's manual.
- Follow all lockout and other procedures when operating or maintaining your machine.
- Be sure that all guards are in place or, if removed for maintenance, replaced before operating the machine again.
- Do not set up the mill on ground with a more than 10-degree incline.
- If you must set up on an incline, put blocks under one side of the mill or dig out areas for the legs so that the mill is level.
- Keep the area around the sawmill clean.
- Handle fuel and lubricants safely. Remember: Don't take chances. Check all work procedures **BEFORE** the job starts!

Work the safe way **ALL THE TIME.**

## Portable Sawmill Safety

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### SAFETY PRECAUTIONS



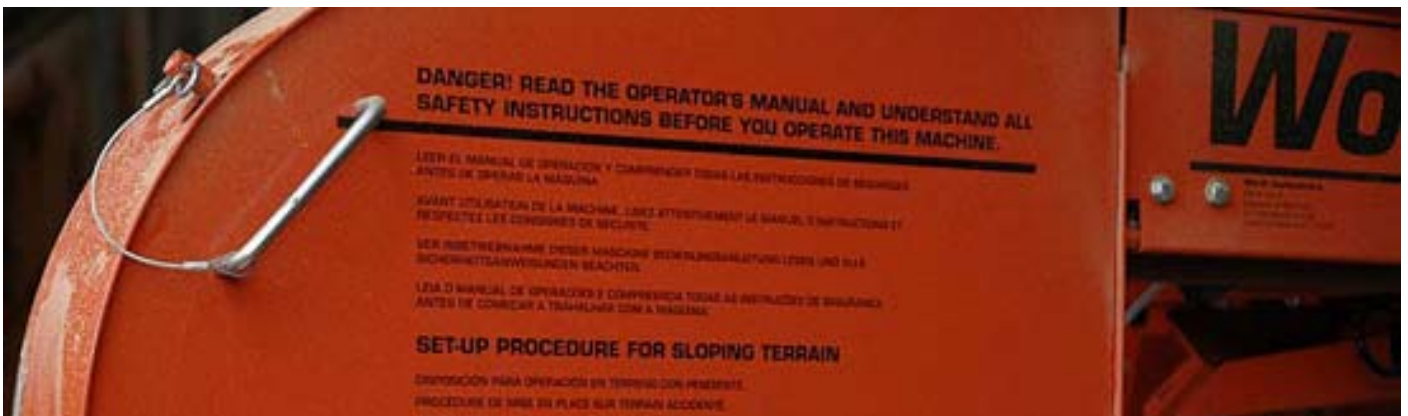
- Have a proper, fully-charged fire extinguisher nearby at the job site.
- Have a fully-stocked first aid kit on hand at all times. Fuel and oil are flammable.
- Never smoke, weld, grind or allow sparks near your engine or storage tanks, especially during fuelling.
- Store gasoline away from sawdust and other flammable materials.
- Always properly dispose of all sawing by-products, including sawdust and other debris, coolant, oil, fuel, oil filters and fuel filters, as per local requirements.
- Clean up spills immediately. Be very careful when fuelling a hot engine. Spilled fuel could cause a fire or explosion.

### SAFETY PRECAUTIONS



- Ensure all electrical connections, cables, hydraulic hoses, and cords are in good repair.
- Make sure all guards and covers are in place and secured before operating or towing the sawmill.
- Keep all persons out of the path of the sawhead while loading or unloading the sawmill.
- Ensure that the blade is adequately guarded to prevent contact by workers while in operation.

## SAFETY PRECAUTIONS



- Be sure the blade housing and pulley covers are in place and secure.
- Use the safety retainer pin and cable to fasten blade housing covers.
- Do not operate the sawmill without the retaining bracket properly installed. The sawhead may tip and fall from the sawmill.
- Be sure the power 'kill' switch is in an easily accessible location.
- Keep safety labels in good condition and be sure they are clean and readable.

## SAFETY PRECAUTIONS



- Keep safety labels in good condition and be sure they are clean and readable
- Take proper protective measures against rotating shafts, pulleys, fans, etc.
- Stay a safe distance from rotating parts, and beware of the hazard of loose clothing or long hair becoming caught up in them.
- The clutch/brake mechanism should be disengaged whenever the sawmill is not cutting.
- Take special care to ensure the blade is disengaged and all persons are out of the path of the blade before starting the engine or motor.
- Keep all persons out of the path of moving equipment and logs when operating the sawmill or loading/turning logs.
- Before loading a log, be sure the cutting head is moved far enough forward so that the log does not hit it.

### SAFETY PRECAUTIONS



- Ensure that all workers have been trained in the general requirements of the job as well as their specific work requirements.
- You must be able to clearly communicate with all workers at all times.
- Keep clear of exiting sawdust. Keep hands, feet and other objects away from the sawdust chute when operating the sawmill.
- Always make sure logs are clamped securely before sawing.

### LOCKOUT PROCEDURES



Follow lockout procedures when adjusting or maintaining the sawmill.

Lockout procedures must be used during:

- Changing and adjusting blades
- Unjamming operations
- Cleaning
- Mechanical repair
- Electrical maintenance
- Retrieval of tools/parts from the work area
- Activities where guards or electrical panel guard is open or removed

### LOCKOUT PROCEDURES



#### Lockout Sequence:

1. Sawmill must be locked out both electrically and pneumatically (lockout air valve)
2. Notify all persons that a lockout is required and the reason for doing so
3. Shut sawmill down using normal stopping procedure
4. Operate the switch and valve so that the energy sources are disconnected or isolated from the saw mill. Stored energy such as moving blades, feed system and air pressure must be dissipated.
5. Lock out the energy-isolating devices with assigned individual locks and tag the equipment.
6. Recheck that all shutoffs and disconnects have been made and the sawmill will not operate.
7. The sawmill is now locked out.

### MAINTENANCE PROGRAM



Implement a regular maintenance program for all sawmill components.

#### **Maintenance hazards include:**

- Blade contact
- Pinch points
- Kickbacks
- Missiles (thrown blades/wood chips)

Changing blades is safest when done by one person. Always wear gloves and eye protection when handling bandsaw blades. Before changing the blade, always disengage the blade and shut off the sawmill engine.

Do not spin the blade wheels by hand. Keep other persons away from the area when coiling, carrying or changing a blade.

### USE CAUTION WITH ENGINE COMPONENTS AND HYDRAULIC SYSTEMS



Engine components become very hot during operation. Avoid contact with any part of a hot engine, including the exhaust components. Never perform functions on a hot engine – allow it to cool before beginning any service function.

Hydraulic systems are under high pressure. Use extreme caution and always wear the correct protective equipment, including gloves rated for high-pressure work.

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**ENSURE YOUR SAFETY AND THE SAFETY OF OTHERS**



Portable sawmills are powerful, professional machines that will keep you cutting precisely and profitably for many years to come – when you don't take chances and operate safely all the time.