



## Cut to foot while using ground saw

An incident has occurred recently where a tree cutting contractor has sustained a cut injury to his foot, through his boot, from a chainsaw. The chainsaw was being used on the ground to remove branches from a fallen tree. While cutting one particular branch, the saw “kicked back” and came into contact with the inner side of the operators right chainsaw boot, just behind the steel toe cap. The saw cut through the boot and came into contact with the operators foot. Several stitches were required.



The operator sustained the injury due to:

1. A lapse in concentration which lead to poor work position, i.e. the operator’s feet were too close to where he was cutting.
2. The operator used the “pushing chain” area of the guide bar at the nose of the bar, which is particularly prone to lick back. If the underside of the guide bar (the “pulling chain” area) had been used, a kick back of the saw would not have occurred.

To prevent a re-occurrence of the incident the following industry best practice should be adopted at all times:

1. Always adopt a secure and balanced stance and keep feet well away from the intended path of the chain when cutting branches
2. Do not cut branches with the kick back zone on the tip of the bar, and do not allow the tip of the bar to catch undercut branches, supporting logs, butt ends or other obstructions. This can cause kick back.
3. Maintain a firm grip on both handles of the chainsaw until the chain stops

