

Log the Right Way!

Safety is the responsibility of everyone who works in the woods, and the Forest Industry Safety and Training Alliance (FISTA) notes that timber harvesting has an extremely high accident and injury rate.

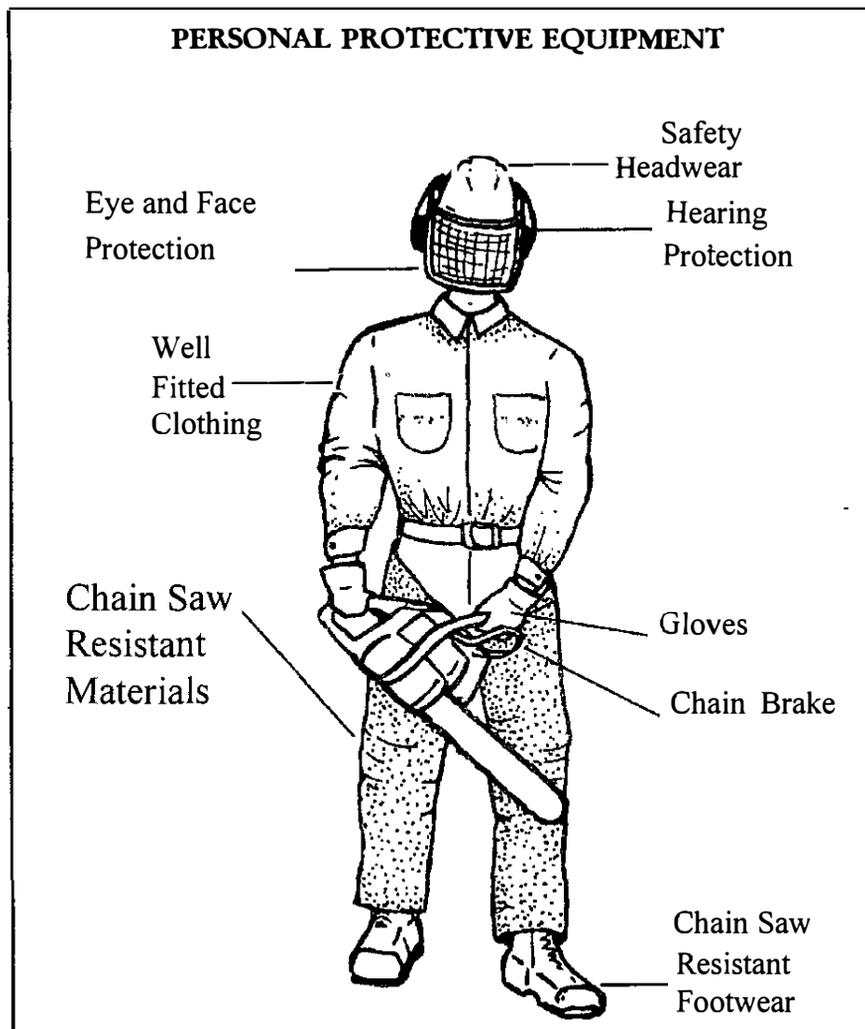
This can change, however, when people respect the tools they use.

Every person who uses a chain saw should use protective equipment, including eye, head, hearing, hand, foot and leg protection.

Head protection: A hard hat should be worn to protect the sawyer from falling limbs and overhead branches and from kick-backs of the chain saw. The hard hat should contain a face screen or the sawyer must wear safety goggles or safety glasses to protect the eyes from wood chips, sawdust and other debris. Ear protection is required to prevent damage to hearing.

Hand and arm protection: Rather than just wearing regular gloves, sawyers should wear gloves (or mitts) with the back of the left hand lined with Kevlar. In addition it is a good idea for upper body clothing to be long-sleeved and fit snugly, to reduce chances of clothing becoming snagged on a branch or getting caught in the saw.

Leg and foot protection: Safety pants or chaps that provide coverage from the top of the thigh to the top of the boot must be worn to provide the leg with protection from accidental cuts and kick-backs. Boots must be waterproof or water repellent provide ankle support have a steel toe and include a recognized cut resistant material such as Kevlar, Engtek, or ballistic nylon.



Personal Protective Equipment illustration courtesy of Forest Industry Safety and Training Alliance, Inc., Rhinelander, WI. FISTA is a non-profit training organization that conducts chainsaw safety training and education for loggers, landowners, and other groups.