

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Fort Worth District  
Safety & Occupational Health Office**

## **Lessons Learned**

**ACCIDENT:** Cut knee with chain saw.

**Date:** 12 March 2002

**WHAT HAPPENED:** Worker was using a chain saw to cut a fallen tree for disposal. While cutting, the tree trunk shifted knocking the still running chain saw into his left knee cutting him. He was taken to the local clinic where he received several stitches to close the wound.

**CONTRIBUTING FACTORS:**

- Improper training to operate equipment.
- Not wearing required protective clothing.

**RESULTS:** Cut knee needed stitches to close wound.

**LESSONS LEARNED:**

**Reference- EM 385-1-1, USACE SAFETY & HEALTH Requirements Manual**

- **Employees shall be trained and/or authorized to operate any equipment prior to the start of work.**
  - 31.A.04 Equipment.
    - a. Equipment shall be inspected, maintained, repaired, and used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
    - b. Employees shall be instructed in the safe and proper use of all equipment provided to them.
- **Employee shall wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment as specified in EM 385-1-1**

13.F.01 All chain saws shall have an automatic chain brake or kickback device.

13.F.03 Operators will wear personal protective equipment: eye, ear, hand, foot (safety shoes), and leg protection are required as a minimum.