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## **WV DHHR Center for Threat Preparedness urges caution in use of chain saws**

The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources Center for Threat Preparedness is encouraging individuals to be aware of the risk of chain saw injury during tree removal.

Center for Threat Preparedness Director Jerry Rhodes noted, "If you must use a chain saw, follow the instructions to be safe. Wear a hard hat, safety glasses, ear plugs, thick work gloves, chaps, and boots. Always hold the saw at waist level or below, and make sure that others remain far away."

Bent trees or branches can also be an issue, especially if they have gotten twisted, hung up on, or caught under another object. If the tree or the branch is suddenly released, it may strike the person cutting it, or a bystander.

Rhodes added, "If you are cut, put direct pressure on the wound to stop bleeding and get medical help as soon as possible."

Trees entangled in power lines must be deferred to the local power company. For downed trees across roadways, calls should be routed through the West Virginia Department of Transportation highways district offices.

More information on chain saw safety is available at <http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/chainsaws.asp>

The mission of the Center for Threat Preparedness is through collaborative leadership and coordination, to ensure adequate capacity and effective systems ready to respond to natural and intentional threats to the public's health.

More information about the Center for Threat Preparedness is available at <http://www.healthprep.wv.gov>.