



SAFETY ALERT - 02

CHAIN SHOT

Chain Shot Can Be Hazardous To Your Health!



Two pictures, two separate incidents of chain shot on CBPPL operations. In both cases, the chain shot embedded in the lexan glass, which prevented it from entering the cabs. Luckily, no one was hurt in either incident, but that may not be the case in the future. **The best protection is prevention.**

Exactly what is chain shot? Chain shot occurs when a piece(s) of cutting chain breaks from the chain in a mechanized harvesting head, and is projected away from the head at high speed. A break in the chain causes two loose ends, which when moving over the drive sprocket, are accelerated in a whip-like action, releasing small parts of the chain at high velocity. Machine operators and bystanders can suffer serious injury or death if struck by chain shot.

How can operators/contractors reduce the risk of chain shot? Chain manufacturers and safety organizations have produced a list of recommendations to reduce the occurrence of chain shot:

- Install appropriate windshield material;
- Ensure chain speed does not exceed the manufacturer's rating (See Owner's Manual);
- Inspect chains frequently, and remove damaged or cracked chains from service;
- Do not reuse "used" connecting components;
- Maintain proper bar and chain lubrication;
- Maintain proper chain tension;
- Replace the drive sprocket when it has visible signs of wear; **and most important,**
- **Never orient the head so that the saw bar is directly in line with the cab or other persons!**

How can bystanders reduce the risk of chain shot?

- Minimize exposure time by getting the operator to stop the saw ASAP;
- **Always stay out of the "line of fire", no matter how far away you are!**