

## Chain Saw and Tree Falling Safety

1. Wear proper protection (eye protection, gloves, sturdy shoes, and hearing protection).
2. Park all vehicles out of reach of the tree you are falling.
3. Be sure the tree has a clear area to fall if possible.
4. Check the area behind you for obstacles in case you have to move fast if the tree falls the wrong direction.
5. Check the chain for obstructions before starting the saw.
6. Keep both hands on the saw, and both feet firmly planted on the ground when the engine is running.
7. Begin by cutting a wedge shaped piece approximately 1/3 of the diameter from the tree approximately 6 inches from the ground or less on the side of the tree in the direction you want the tree to fall. (See figure 1)
8. On the opposite side of the tree, start a cut about 2 inches above the wedge you previously cut. (See figure 1) Keep a close eye on the tree in case it starts to lean the wrong direction. Chain binding in the tree is an indication the tree wants to fall in the opposite direction of what was planned. Small trees less than 8 inches in diameter can sometimes be pushed in the direction you want them to fall once you have cut all but an inch or so of the tree. Continue cutting through the tree until it begins to fall. As soon as it begins falling, step back out of the way.
9. Choose the direction of fall according to the wind direction, if possible. If the tree must fall in a predetermined location, follow the procedures in 7 and 8 and periodically pound a plastic wedge behind your final saw cut (described in 8) to force the tree's weight towards the desired fall location.
10. Trim the branches off the tree. If the ground slopes, stand on the uphill side. Don't cut the branches that are propping up the log first.
11. Once you cut the tree into the lengths you want be careful to lift with your legs when loading the lengths onto a vehicle. Green wood can be very heavy!

