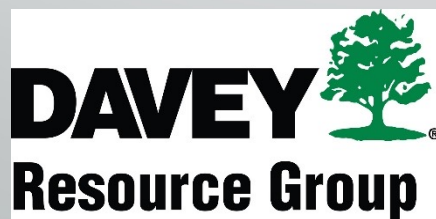




Best Practices Identified at the
**UAA Minnesota
Safety Summit
June 20 & 21, 2023**

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Chainsaw Safety & Maintenance:

Connor Larson, Midwest Stihl

Best Practices & Lessons Learned

1. Check chain break often
2. Ensure your boots are chainsaw boots (check with boot manufacturer if it chainsaw specific)
3. Check your equipment daily and follow the operator manual and maintenance schedule
4. Maintain 3 points of contact when starting a chainsaw
5. No drop start
6. Be aware of reactive forces
7. Cutting chaps don't necessarily prevent injury
8. Chain brake on when you are NOT actively cutting
9. Keep you chain SHARP!
10. Bar oil: make sure you are using the proper oil for the season



Safe Herbicide Handling: Dale Sutherland; Nutrien Best Practices & Lessons Learned

1. 3 points of pesticide handling is:
 - transport & storage
 - Mixing & loading
 - Application to the site
2. Landowner Notification Programs
3. UTV / ATV Training and safety
4. Right product chosen for application site
5. Have fresh clean water on hand
6. All liquids should be clearly labeled
 - Read all labels prior to any application
7. Hazard= Toxicity + Dose
8. Be aware of your conditions and surroundings
9. All PPE is defined on the product label - Follow the most restrictive label in a tank mix
10. PPE is the last line of defense



Gambling is for card games: Dr. John Ball; UAA Director & South Dakota State University Professor

1. Tree workers account for 0.03% of the workforce but account for 1% of fatalities.
2. Half of all fatalities occur to workers over the age of 45 years
3. Plan at least one escape route
4. Do not stand there and watch the tree fall
5. Most accidents happen in small companies (10 employees or less)
 - Things that reduce accidents are training, safety culture and job briefings
6. The longer you are in the industry you compound your odds of getting hurt or dying on the job
7. If you are an active crew member you are 1-1/2 times the height of the tree away
 - All bystanders (non-involved crew members and public) must be 2 times the height of the tree away
8. Top 3 industry causes of death:
 - Struck by a tree
 - Electrical contact
 - Chipper accident



Live Line Demo:

Pete Leibel, East Central Energy

Best Practices & Lessons Learned

1. Generators, solar, and EV can all back feed on to downed power lines 's
2. When working storms or during storm work make sure you are working under protective grounds installed by the power company
3. Know your voltages and minimum approach distances (MAD)
4. Keep ropes and equipment clean and dry
5. Locates before you dig
6. Proper PPE and using the right insulated tools
7. Importance of staying in the vehicle in the situation of downed lines on vehicle
 - If you must leave the vehicle be sure to use techniques to minimize step potential



Chipper Safety:

Colin Shoen; RDO Equipment Vermeer
Best Practices & Lessons Learned

1. Importance of proper PPE
2. Always load the chipper from the curb side and immediately walk away
3. If the inner filter smells like dirt is time to replace it
4. Bold lettering: NO ROPES/BARBWIRE/VINES through the chipper
5. Grease the drum after each use and inspect knives
6. Know whether you are using a vertical or horizontal feed as they will have different hazards

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