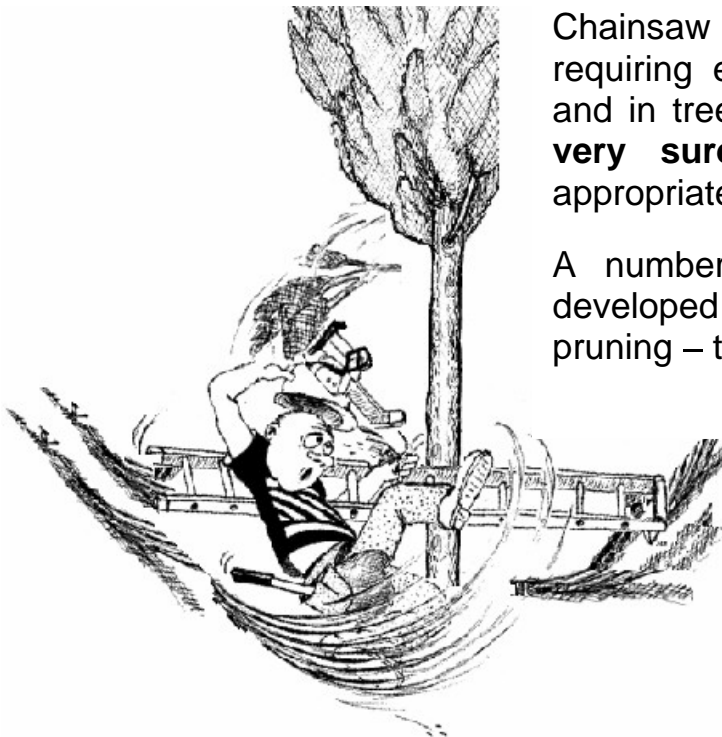


Chainsaw Pruning – Serious Harm!

Serious ‘chainsaw-pruning’ injuries feature disproportionately high when compared to the total number of injuries causing serious harm within our operations. This has caused a number of people to feel that Pruners should not be able to use chainsaws full stop; especially where manual hand-tools are more productive e.g. where branches are smaller, and where the manual option is clearly less expensive!



Chainsaw pruning is a serious business requiring experience in both chainsaw use and in tree pruning – a Contractor must be **very sure** that his employee has the appropriate level of skill.

A number of PF Olsen Managers have developed guidelines around chainsaw pruning – typically, these include:

- Strict training qualification i.e. NZQA unit standards.
- Instructions as to when and where a Chainsaw can be used e.g. ridge tops and road edges.
- Two handed use of the saw and use of fall restraints.

Please contact your local Branch for further information.

FIPS # 1515 – Lost Time Injury

A Chainsaw Pruner was pruning large branches on steep slopes. Whilst standing on his ladder (placed sideways against the tree), a branch came down and hit the pruners arm causing him to slip of the ladder and his hand to connect with the chainsaw. The chain was still spinning and cuts were sustained to the webbing area of his hand.