

# Rapid Lesson Sharing

**Event Type:** Chainsaw Kickback Accident

**Date:** July 21, 2024

**Location:** Falls Fire  
Oregon

*"This incident is a huge eye-opener for me."*

## The Story and Key Lesson from this Chainsaw Kickback Incident

**By The Engine Boss**

While on assignment to the Falls Fire, our engine crew was given the task to assess and prep a historic structure. This was new ground for our crew. We were working the night shift.

When we reached the road that led to the structure of concern, we noticed it had some branches that needed to be cleared to make room for our Type 6 engine.

I had the firefighter grab the chainsaw to cut a couple branches. Due to the limited amount of required work, the decision was made to not wear chaps.

Once we cleared the roadway, we proceeded down to the structure, an old log building with some overgrown brush and a few bushes located around it.



Our crew got straight to work without taking a tactical pause or putting on our proper PPE—chaps. Within the first couple minutes, as my firefighter was cutting a small, less than 6-foot tree, the saw kicked back and cut his right knee. *"At first, I thought it just cut my pants,"* the firefighter said. *"Until I looked down and saw blood."*

We provided first aid measures on scene. I initiated the 8-Line Medical Incident Report (MIR) to communications. The firefighter was treated at the local hospital where he received 78 stitches.

### Lesson

This incident is a huge eye-opener for me. I will take its lesson and share it with as many people as possible:

***It doesn't matter how small the job may feel, always take the time to put on your proper PPE—especially when operating a chainsaw.***

This RLS was submitted by:

**Sean Stafford**  
Fire Staff Officer  
Grand Mesa Uncompahgre and Gunnison  
National Forests

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