Occupational hazards of debris removal

Risks:
- Cuts to extremities
- Long-term hearing loss due to noise exposure without protective equipment (ear plugs used WITH/IN ADDITION TO over-ear mufflers)
- Back injury due to weight of chainsaw and poor/non-ergonomic posture
- Eye injury due to flying debris
- Injuries caused by chainsaw Kick-back
- Vibration injury (called Raynaud’s Syndrome) to the hands from long-term use

Protective equipment that should be worn when using a chainsaw:
- Wear ear plugs or ear muffs for hearing protection
- Wear gloves to reduce vibration
- Wear goggles or face shield to protect the eyes
- Wear chaps to protect your legs
- Wear sturdy protective footwear (preferably steel toe)
- Wear a hard hat to protect your head from falling trees and branches

Safe Chainsaw use procedures:
- When adding fuel to the chainsaw, make sure you are at least 10 feet away from any source of ignition
- Start saw on ground
- Keep a firm grip and footing. Stand to one side of limb you are cutting
  - Don’t cut between your legs.
- Before cutting, look up for loose branches that may fall
- Prevent kickback. Don’t cut with the tip of the saw
- Shut off or apply chain brake when carrying
- Work at a safe distance from other people
- Take breaks. Very tired people make mistakes and get hurt

Source: www.OSHA.gov