How To Safely Cut Down A Tree With A Chainsaw

Categories: Homesteading

Guest post from Craig Caudill

You have it in your head you need to take down that tree that has been bothering you for a while. The chainsaw is just sitting there waiting to be used. How hard could it be to take the chainsaw and cut down the tree? You see it on television all the time. No big deal, right? Wrong.

It is not quite so simple. There are a couple of considerations you need to think about before you start hacking away.

- Personal Safety

Getting the chainsaw stuck

Personal Safety

Before you begin to saw down a tree, you need to ensure your safety and that of others who are in the vicinity. Where you stand while cutting the tree must be carefully planned out. You absolutely cannot just walk up and start sawing away. You need to have an escape route in your mind for when that tree starts falling. This needs to be done beforehand so you do not have to stop and think for a second or two. Those seconds could cost you life or limb. Wearing the proper safety gear is extremely important as well. Something else you may not have thought about is putting the chainsaw down before you make your getaway. You cannot run with it when the tree starts falling. Well, you could, but that would be so extremely dangerous you don’t want to even try.

When the Chainsaw Gets Stuck

This is one of those things that can happen if you are not 100 percent sure what you are doing. In this video, you will see how to make cuts that prevent the saw from getting stuck in the trunk. You really want to pay attention to this because it can damage your blade if it gets lodged or pinched by the tree falling.
Please note, it is never a good idea to just randomly start cutting down trees. Pick trees that are suitable for whatever need you have. Virginia pine is what you see being felled in the video. If you are looking for long-burning firewood, this is not the tree you want. However, it will burn quick and produce some hot coals.

If you are concerned about leaving a dead tree, know this, those dead trees are actually very beneficial to wildlife. Owls, squirrels and raccoons make their homes in these dead trees. Woodpeckers will appreciate a dead tree as well. They are chalk-full of yummy food. Now, if the tree poses a hazard, like it may fall on someone or some piece of property, then it does need to come down.

Craig Caudill likes to correctly use machetes, hatchets, and saws in various survival situations. He writes about outdoor survival for Dan's Depot and teaches at his Nature Reliance School.