

Around The County Farms: Firewood Cutting Can Be Hazardous

By Mike Williams
Co. Ext. Chairman
Now that cool weather has arrived, many people are beginning to get out and cut a supply of firewood for the winter. There are many precautions that should be taken when operating a chainsaw and felling trees so that injuries can be avoided.

Manufacturers of the modern chainsaw use the latest technology known to man. Its relatively low cost makes it available to almost anyone. Its light weight and ease of operation allows a person to pick it up and start using it with little or no instruction. The operator's manual provides all the basic information a person needs to know about how the saw operates and how to use it. Then why are there so many accidents and injuries caused by chainsaws? One reason is that persons regard a chainsaw as a

plaything rather than as a very dangerous, sharp cutting tool to be used with extreme caution.

Chainsaw Safety Features—Many excellent safety features are built into the newer models of chainsaws by manufacturers. A hand guard-bar in front of the forward handle prevents the hand from slipping into the chain. A special guide bar with a safety-tip on the nose reduces the chance of a kickback by keeping the chain from contacting anything at the guide bar tip. Also, an anti-kickback safety chain may be used for cutting to prevent kickback.

Other safety features include a trigger or throttle lock-out which guards against accidentally starting the chain. A spark arrestor on the muffler keeps sparks from being ejected from the exhaust. This reduces the risks of

starting a fire. Handles mounted on rubber shock absorbers reduce fatigue when operating the saw for long periods of time. Even though most of the above features are designed for and incorporated into the saw to prevent the operator from being cut by the high-speed chain, there has been an increase in injuries caused by them.

Chainsaw Injuries and Accidents—According to a recent survey there were 125,000 chainsaw-related injuries in the United States in 1980, compared to 55,000 in 1975. This reflects the increase in the number of operating chainsaws in the country and an increase in smaller, non-professional saws. Hospital studies of 329 injuries during this period found that of the injuries, 12 per cent were of the upper torso, about 57 per cent were hand or arm injuries, and about 31 per cent were leg or foot injuries.

Injuries are a result of accidents. In this study the accidents which caused the injuries gave a better indication about the causes of injury. Thirty-one per cent were caused by surrounding working conditions like brush, limbs, logs and slippery rocks; 27 per cent were caused by "kickback" from an object in the cutting chain; 21.5 per cent were caused by attempting to use the saw with one hand; and 13 per cent of the accidents were caused by the presence of a second person. Injuries occur to the second person by being too close to a falling tree or limbs. Also, he may get cut by holding limbs or brush for the chainsaw operator.

A chainsaw operator should recognize that he will most likely be injured on the hand or arm when operating the saw. The surrounding working conditions and kickbacks will most likely cause the injuries. Keeping these in mind when using the saw should help to reduce the accidents and injuries.

A.M., a start to finish demonstration on tree cutting, actual log sawing and the stacking of new lumber for air drying will be held. The demonstration site is located outside Hertford on the Wynne Fork Road just off U.S. 17 bypass and

about one mile south of the Perquimans River Bridge. Refreshments will be served.

This event will show the use of a portable one-man sawmill which should be of particular interest to landowners who may need to

salvage wind or insect damaged trees. Rather than letting them rot in the woods, they can be sawed on the site and the lumber kept for on-farm use.

There will also be a chainsaw safety and maintenance demonstration

and felling techniques. Logs will be cut in the woods, skidded out to the sawmill, cut and stacked.

The public is invited to benefit from this demonstration.

Northside Auto Parts Offers New Service Package

Carroll Smith, owner of Northside Auto Parts in Edenton, North Carolina, is now offering an alternative to consumers trapped by the rising costs of fuel and new cars.

Serving the community for the past 32 years, Carroll and his wife, Marjorie, who is his business right hand, live in Edenton. They have increased the service capabilities of their shop by now offering an extensive exhaust service package as a Major Muffler Center.

According to Carroll, his Major Muffler pipe - bending equipment customizes an exhaust system for each

individual make and model, quickly providing the customer with a specially designed system that is fully guaranteed for as long as he owns his car. Because the need to stock parts for various models is unnecessary, delays in installation are virtually eliminated. Carroll and his team of mechanics have been thoroughly trained in installation techniques and are ready for the influx of customers their competitive prices will create.

With increasing emphasis on controlling pollution, fuel economy, and with the trend toward repairing rather than replacing cars, more and more concerned consumers are taking advantage of the option offered by shops such as Northside Auto Parts.

Carroll is inviting everyone to come in, get acquainted, and take advantage of his 10 per cent off offer on muffler and tailpipe

parts November 15th through December 17th. Don't miss out on this limited time offer. In ad-

dition, Carroll's Grand Opening will feature free refreshments for everyone who stops by his shop.

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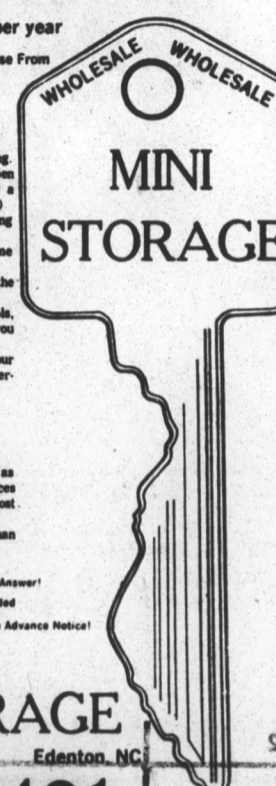
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New Work Contractor

Energy Assistance

Continued From Page 2-B
any time between November 1 and December 10. Applications will be taken at the Department of Social Services each day between the hours of 9 A.M. to 12 noon and 2 P.M. to 4 P.M.

To be eligible the household income must be at or below the non-farm poverty level, the household has heating bills and the household's assets have value of \$2,200.00 or less.

Income at or below the non-farm poverty level:
No. in household Maximum income

1	\$316.00
2	418.00
3	519.00
4	621.00
5	723.00
6	824.00
7	926.00

Add \$102.00 for each additional person.

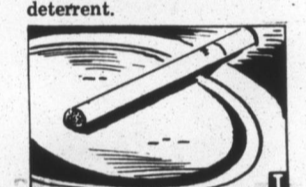
Anyone who has questions concerning applying for Energy Assistance may call 482-7441 for further information.

NEWS OF HEALTH

Smoking Deterrent
People whose plans of giving up smoking keep going up in smoke may be able to take heart from a new smoking deterrent.

Drug stores now carry a medicated gum—Healthbreak—recently classified by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as a legitimate smoking deterrent.

Healthbreak, the first product in 20 years to be classified as a legitimate smoking deterrent by the FDA, can help smokers break the habit.



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