

FIX-N-FAX #96

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

No. 96

Equipment Standard

Mandatory Compliance

Date: December 1978

Brush and Slash Chippers

The Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) wrote several requirements against chippers used by Caltrans crews. Title 8, California Administrative Code, Logging and Sawmill Safety Order 6371 requires that chippers:

1. Have a 36 inch feed-in throat guard extending from the blades out toward the operator.
2. Be designed to maintain a minimal safe operator distance of 88 inches, measured from ground level up to and across the feed-in table to the cutting blades.
3. Be equipped with swinging baffle mounted in front of the blades to prevent throwback of materials.

The attached diagram (image not available) should help you visualize these requirements.

These requirements were written as a result of a blade in a Fitchburg Chipper fracturing and throwing metal fragments that literally chewed up the other blades. Without the proper safety measures being taken, as outlined, flying metal fragments could seriously injure an operator and possibly other crew members.

Please have all chippers inspected to see that they meet these standards.

[\(see FIX-N-FAX INDEX\)](#)