

STIHL CHAIN SAWS

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HAZARD SUMMARY:

The insulation covering an ignition-system ground wire on Stihl chain saws can wear through prematurely by rubbing against the housing. The bare ground wire can then ignite a fire if gasoline or some other combustible substance is present. At least one fire is reported to have been caused in this way.

AFFECTED SAWS:

Fifty thousand chain saws in the 1127 series, model numbers 029 and 039, manufactured between March 7, 1993 and August 12, 1994, are affected. Affected model 029 saws have serial numbers 226585676 and up, and affected model 039 saws, serial numbers 227236569 and up. The serial number is stamped on the housing next to the exhaust/muffler opening.

Model 029 saws displace 54 cc, and model 039 saws, 64 cc. Both are considered "farm-duty" saws.

The manufacturer has sent recall notices to owners who have sent in their warranty cards; however, not all purchasers return these cards.

LOCATION(S) AND SECTOR(S):

- Logging, forestry, pulp and paper
- Arborists
- Construction
- Municipal, industrial and forest fire services
- Clearing and maintaining Hydro lines
- Land clearing operations at mine sites, quarries and exploration sites

SUGGESTED PRECAUTIONS:

Section 25(1)(b) of the Occupational Health and Safety Act requires the employer to ensure that "the equipment, materials, and protective devices provided by the employer are maintained in good condition".

Anyone using these saws should stop using them immediately. Owners should return them to an authorized Stihl dealer for a free repair of the ground wire.

For more information, please contact Mr. Dave Ellis, Stihl Canada, at (519) 681-3000, or your nearest Ministry of Labour office.