

Working with dust and fumes

- Chainsaw fumes can collect in enclosed spaces
- Watch out for fumes, dust, pollen
- Use respiratory protective equipment if necessary



Working with dust and fumes

While most forestry work takes place outside, we can still be affected by some of the things we breathe in. Basically, that's anything other than fresh air.

Chainsaw fumes can collect in enclosed spaces

- Remember, dense bush or narrow valleys can trap chainsaw fumes.
- If possible, cut a gap in the bush to let air into where you're working – if not, take regular breaks in fresh air.
- Have an escape path so you can get out into fresh air quickly.

Watch out for other fumes, dust, pollen

- Try to work as close to open air as possible so you don't breathe in fumes or gases from equipment you're working with (eg, petrol or chemical fumes).
- If the site is dusty, think about wetting it down.
- Be aware of bracken spores and pollen count – make sure any antihistamines you use are the non-drowsy kind.

Use respiratory protective equipment (RPE)

- If you can't stop the dust or fumes, use RPE.
- Make sure the masks are up to the job, clean and well maintained, and fit snugly over your face – a clean shave makes the best seal.