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Oregon Cutting Systems Promotes Awareness of Chain Shot

Portland, Oregon: October 20, 2006 – Oregon Cutting Systems Group, a division of Blount, Inc., is a world leader in designing, manufacturing and marketing saw chain and accessories for chainsaws and mechanical timber harvesters. OCSG has a long history of identifying and solving technical problems related to the safe use of saw chain. The phenomenon of chain shot is an issue of concern for everyone involved with mechanized timber-cutting equipment.

Chain shot, associated with mechanized timber-cutting equipment, is the high-velocity separation and ejection of one or more pieces of cutting chain from the end of a broken chain, during mechanized timber-cutting. Chain shot typically occurs near the drive end of the cutting system but can also come from the bar tip area. The speed of the chain and the energy created as the broken chain whips around can cause pieces of the chain to break away and be thrown at extremely high speeds. These pieces of chain can travel like a bullet, with sufficient velocity to penetrate thick polycarbonate windows and still injure operators.

Chris Seigneur, OCSG Senior Product Design Engineer, says, “The danger of chain shot is to the harvester operator what kickback is to the chainsaw operator. Just as the chainsaw industry addressed the kickback danger with changes in equipment design, training, and warnings, the mechanized harvester industry is doing likewise for chain shot.”

As an industry leader, committed to product and customer safety, OCSG has created and compiled technical information on chain shot. The information has been posted on the OCSG website at www.oregonchain.com/tech/chain_shot.htm to better inform individuals, companies, and industry groups involved with mechanized timber-cutting equipment. Many of the causes, effects, and ways to reduce the risk of chain shot are listed on the chain shot web pages. Please take some time to visit the website and then follow the links to additional resources, other chain shot related web pages, and articles related to chain shot.

Oregon Cutting Systems Group: Founded in 1947, the Oregon Cutting Systems Group of Blount, Inc. is a world leader in providing high quality original equipment and replacement parts to the outdoor power equipment industry. Replacement products sold under the Oregon® brand name provide the industry with one of its most complete lines of parts including saw chain, guide bars, sprockets and maintenance accessories for chainsaws; lawnmower blades, engine parts, belts, tires and service tools for mowers and other outdoor power equipment; and trimmer line, heads, and blades for trimmers and brushcutters. Oregon® replacement products are sold in more

than 130 countries, and many leading manufacturers of outdoor power tools use parts made by Oregon Cutting Systems as original equipment. More information about the Oregon Cutting Systems Group and the Oregon[®] brand of quality replacement parts can be found at www.oregonchain.com.