

MOUNT SNOW - STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE

Topic: Chain Saw Operation

Approval: Dave Moulton

Updated: November 7, 2012

PURPOSE:

REQUIRED TRAINING/APPROVAL:

- Completion of the chain saw training program “The Game of Logging” levels 1 & 2.
- Prior approval by a supervisor who has observed saw skills, safety knowledge and safe cutting techniques

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT:

- Hardhat with face shield and safety glasses
- Hearing protection
- Sturdy cut resistant footwear
- Chaps and long pants
- Tool kit – file and guide, srench (screwdriver/wrench combination), wedge(s)
- Gloves
- Ax
- Mountain radio
- First aid kit
- Boxes or chain holsters and means to secure the chain saw. This shall be used in transportation vehicles to protect the chain, saw and employees.

RECOMMENDED:

- Two person teams working within visual or audible contact is preferred.
 - If working alone, a check-out, check-in process must be used.

PROCEDURE:

- Ensure that cutting is allowed in the area where work is to be performed (e.g., is it Mount Snow property or Green Mountain National Forest property?)
- The chainsaw owner’s manual must be reviewed in complete.
- The chain saw operator shall inspect each chain saw prior to each work shift. The inspection must include: 1) the throttle lock, 2) chain brake, 3) spark arrestor, 4) chain catcher, 5) all nuts and bolts.
- New chainsaw operators must work under the direct supervision of a supervisor trained in chainsaw use. Direct supervision will take place until the supervisor has observed sufficient cutting skills, safety knowledge, and safe cutting techniques.
- When felling, operators must use the 5-part felling plan: 1) identify overhead hazards, 2) directional lean of the tree, 3) an escape plan, 4) calculate hinge information, 5) a back-cutting plan.
- Look carefully at your work area; identify any hazards around and above the work site including brush, widow makers and dead or broken branches hanging above.
- Operators must plan and clear a retreat path, 45 degrees to the rear, away from the intended direction of the tree before he/she begins cutting a tree.
- After cutting a tree the feller must release the throttle and engage the chain brake, then move immediately on the retreat path to a safe distance from the falling tree.
- Chain saws shall be started on the ground or by securing the rear handle between the thighs. Drop starting the saw is not permissible.

- Only walk with the chain brake on or the saw motor off.
- No employee shall approach the fell closer than two tree lengths until the feller has acknowledged that it's safe to do so.
- Use proper felling and bucking techniques.
- Defer to an operator with sufficient experience when felling trees near buildings, lifts or power lines or that present additional hazards such as snags, leaners, frozen trees, heavy brush, deep snow, etc

GENERAL SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS:

- Never approach an operator until visual and verbal contact has been made.
- Employees shall stop working and move to a safe location when adverse environmental conditions exist (i.e., lightning in the area, active bee's nest, high winds, etc.)
- Maintain a pace that allows for careful planning of each fell and remaining limbing/bucking.
- The chain saw shall be held with the thumbs and fingers of both hands encircling the handles during operation.
- Sharpen the chain at the end of each work shift and whenever it becomes dull.
- The chain-saw operator shall be certain of good footing before starting to cut and maintain good footing through out.
- Trees leaning or in contact with high voltage wires will not be approached until confirmation has been obtained from the electrical department that it is safe to do so.

PROHIBITED:

- Starting the chain saw with the chain brake off
- Drop starting the chain saw
- Operating the chain saw with any safety device disabled
- Fueling the chain saw less than 10 feet from open flames or any other source of ignition
- Starting the chain saw less than 10 feet from the fueling station
- Cutting wood with metal embedded
- Cutting directly overhead
- Smoking while fueling or operating the chain saw

If you have any questions regarding this SOG please contact The Mountain Operations Department Coordinator at x4440.