



City of Montpelier, Vermont
"The Smallest Capital City in the United States"

Chain Saw Operation

Last Updated July 17, 2003

Chain Saw Operation

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Purpose

This program was created to provide procedures and policies to properly train and protect employees who operate chain saws and related equipment; however, it does not apply to fire ground operations.

Copies of this program will be available to all employees in the workplace. Employees will be trained to be in compliance with the program.

Program Administrator

The program administrator is responsible for the hazard assessment required for the program, the employee training required by the program. The purchase of the chain saws and related equipment and appropriate PPE to be worn during their use is the responsibility of the Department Head.

Employees should refer their questions or comments about this program to the administrator.

The program administrator is

Eric Ladd, Public Works Department Supervisor

Annual Review

The program shall be evaluated annually in June to determine the effectiveness of this program.

See evaluation form-page 5

Employer/Employee Responsibilities

Employees shall be trained to know at least the following:

- Proper chain saw use and knowledge of the manufacturers manual
- What PPE is necessary for chain saw operation
- The limitations of the specific PPE provided by the employer
- The proper care and maintenance of the specific saw/saws in use

The employee shall demonstrate an understanding of the above before being allowed to perform work requiring the use a chain saw. If the employee does not understand the above, retraining will be carried out by the departmental or designated training person.

The employer must retrain if previous training becomes obsolete or if new equipment is introduced.

The employer shall verify that each effected employee has received and understood the required training through a written learning exercise and that the training is documented.

The employee is responsible for routine operator servicing and care of the saw as called for in the manufacturers manual.

Required PPE – Based on Employer Assessment of Workplace Hazards

1910.133 – Eye and face protection

Suitable eye protectors (safety glasses, goggles, face shields, wire mesh masks, etc.) must be provided where there is potential for injury to the eyes or face from flying particles or debris.

1910.135 – Head Protection

Employees working in a location where there is danger of being struck in the head by falling objects or other dangers from above such as electrical hazards must wear head protection. The head protection must meet the requirements of American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Z89.1-1986.

1910.136 – Foot Protection

Persons must have foot and leg protection if their feet are subject to crushing foot injury. The feet must also be protected from puncture by sharp objects, hot surfaces, wet and slippery surfaces. This also requires leg protection for persons using chainsaws and other devices that could cause injury to legs.

1910.137 – Electrical Protective Equipment

Persons working around power generating or power distribution construction and maintenance must be protected from shock, electrocution and burn hazards.

1910.138 – Hand Protection

Workers hands and arms must be protected from cuts, burns, and other recognized hazards. Proper hand wear must be selected for the task.

1910.95 – Occupational Noise Exposure – Hearing Conservation

Hearing protection must be provided for persons exposed to noise levels exceeding limits set forth in 1910.95. The noise level of the workplace must be measured to determine if hearing protection is required. Employees must be tested for hearing capacity to establish a base line for use when succeeding tests are made. Employees' hearing must be tested annually and compared to the base line test to see if the hearing conservation program is effective. If the tests reveal further hearing loss, the employer must make every effort to further reduce the noise level exposure to the employee. The employer must furnish ear protection that will diminish the noise to acceptable levels. Foam earplugs, ear "muffs", or other suitable method may be used to reduce noise exposure when no other way to reduce the noise level is possible.

OTHER RELATED ISSUES

A U.S. Coast Guard approved life jacket or buoyant work vest is required when there is danger of falling into water at the work site. For emergency rescue operations, boats and ring buoys with at least 90 feet of line are required when working over or on water.

Day workers should use safety orange or safety green vests when working within the road right-of-way when exposed to traffic hazards.

Other Related Issues – Continued

The employer must furnish all equipment and PPE except personal wear items. Safety toe shoes or boots are personal wear items. The employer and employee may share the cost for safety shoes or boots. Specialized footwear such as hip boots or other footwear used infrequently should be furnished by the employer.

Safety glasses ground to prescription are also considered to be personal wear items. The employer and the employee may share the cost of prescription safety eyeglasses.

Replacement of personal wear items is usually on a time basis, e.g., yearly, every second year or whenever the item is damaged as a result of work activity. For example, an employee inspecting on an asphalt-paving project has safety toe shoes ruined by the tack oil and hot mix. This would be abnormal wear and the cost should be born by the employer. These situations should be judged on a case by case basis with or without written policy.

Annual Program Evaluation

Program Name: **Chain Saw Operation**

Evaluation Date: _____

Evaluation Team:

Name	Title	Department
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

List injuries or near misses attributable to failure of program or failure to follow program:

Recommendations for additions to procedures/policies with explanation for each:

Recommendations for deletions of procedures/policies with explanation for each:

Recommendations for modifications to procedures/policies with explanation for each:

Chain Saw Operation Employee Training Form for

City of Montpelier

Instructor's Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Qualifications:

Course Outline:

List training conducted:

List of employees receiving training

Employee Name

Signature

<i>Employee Name</i>	<i>Signature</i>

Instructor's Signature

Employee Learning Exercise for Chain Saw Operation

Employee: _____ Signature: _____

Score:

Date: _____

1. True False Reading and understanding the chain saw operators manual is required before use.
2. True False PPE is designed to protect a persons body from injury while working on the job.
3. True False Under the PPE standard, your employer must assess the hazards in the workplace before issuing PPE.
4. True False An approved system consisting of head, face, eye and hearing protection is required during chain saw use.
5. True False The engine should be stopped or chain brake engaged when moving the saw more than 50 feet.
6. True False Drop starting a chain saw is permissible
7. True False MSDS data will be available for chain saw oil, grease, fuel, etc.
8. True False A minimum of two individuals is required for chain saw operations.
9. True False Cutting dead trees present additional hazards.
10. True False When felling a tree keep everyone at least two tree lengths away.
11. True False Use of saws with low or reduced kickback features are not desirable.
12. True False Cutting above shoulder height is allowed.
13. True False Wearing chainsaw chaps when participating in brush cutting operations would be optional for the saw operator.
14. True False Use a chain saw from ground level only, never on a ladder or in a tree.
15. True False A working safety throttle switch is required.
16. True False Saw refueling should be conducted when the saw is cool.
17. True False When felling trees a preplanned escape route at a 45 degree angle from the projected direction of the falling tree is desirable.

APPENDIX A

Chain Saw Learning Exercise Answers

1. True
2. True
3. True
4. True
5. True
6. False
7. True
8. True
9. True
10. True
11. False
12. False
13. False
14. True
15. True
16. True
17. True