

# Chainsaw Operations - bucking, limbing & Felling

R6-FS-6700-7 (08/12)

<p>U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service</p>	<p>1. WORK PROJECT/ACTIVITY Chainsaw Operations - bucking, limbing &amp; Felling</p>	<p>2. LOCATION USFS - Forest Wide</p>	<p>3. UNIT Region 6</p>		
<p>JOB HAZARD ANALYSIS (JHA) References-FSH 6709.11 and -12 (Instructions on Reverse)</p>	<p>4. NAME OF ANALYST Back Country Horsemen of Washington</p>	<p>5. JOB TITLE BCHW Safety Committee</p>	<p>6. DATE PREPARED April 2020</p>		
<p>7. TASKS/PROCEDURES</p>	<p>8. HAZARDS</p>	<p>9. ABATEMENT ACTIONS Engineering Controls * Substitution * Administrative Controls * PPE</p>	<p>10. POST ABATEMENT ACTION RISK RATING (Severity/Probability Matrix)</p>		
			<p>Severity</p>	<p>Probability</p>	<p>Risk Code</p>
<p>General Chainsaw Operation</p> <hr/> <p>Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)</p>	<p>Serious potential injury during chainsaw operation to sawyer(s), crew members or public trail users</p> <hr/> <p>Serious potential personal injury from falling limbs, flying debris, or sharp tools</p>	<p>Maintain Required Qualifications: 1. Chainsaw operation certification 2. First aid / CPR certification</p> <hr/> <p>Operators are responsible for having proper PPEs: Hard hat, eye protection, hearing protection, gloves, long sleeve shirt, long pants, chaps, and boots Boots must be 8" tall, leather or cut-resistant, with non-skid soles, and have ankle support Chaps must have 2" overlap of boots at hem See PPE FSH 6709 11,21,13 First aid kit located on the jobsite OSHA standard 1920,266 App. A</p>	<p>II - Critical</p> <hr/> <p>III - Marginal</p>	<p>D - Seldom</p> <hr/> <p>D - Seldom</p>	<p>4 - Low</p> <hr/> <p>4 - Low</p>
<p>Tailgate Safety Meeting</p> <hr/> <p>Travel to worksite</p>	<p>Communication between Trail Work Leader and crew members is important to avoid injuries</p> <hr/> <p>Potential injury during transport of chainsaw and sharp trail tools</p>	<p>Trail Work Leader and crew members must participate in a Tailgate Safety Briefing at the start of the project. See Tailgate Safety Briefing form. Crew members MUST fill out Medical Declaration Form. Discuss communication procedures Discuss Emergency Action Plan (EAP) Discuss tasks and procedures for the project Sawyers MUST NOT work alone</p> <hr/> <p>Use covering sheath for chainsaw blade Use tool guards for trail tools Use proper transport for chainsaw and tools carried on trail stock Foot traffic must travel 10 feet apart Carry chainsaw on downhill side of trail, pointing toward the ground and away from your body</p>	<p>IV - Negligible</p> <hr/> <p>IV - Negligible</p>	<p>E - Unlikely</p> <hr/> <p>D - Seldom</p>	<p>4 - Low</p> <hr/> <p>4 - Low</p>

Equipment	Potential injury with use of improper equipment	<p>Follow manufacture's safety, operation, and maintenance recommendations for chainsaw.</p> <p>Chainsaw must have a good starter cord, chain break, spark arrestor, a good clutch, a chain catcher, and chip deflector</p> <p>Have on hand an axe, wedges, maul or single bit axe.</p> <p>Have on hand a spare chainsaw chain and a chainsaw wrench</p> <p>Have approved leak proof containers for fuel and oil</p>	IV - Negligible	D - Seldom	4 - Low
Fueling Safety	<p>Potential injury from fire</p> <p>Potential injury from fuel and / or vapor geysering</p>	<p>Allow chainsaw to cool at least 5 minutes before refueling</p> <p>Clean debris from fuel and oil tank openings</p> <p>Be wary of chainsaw fuel tank pressure if tank is more than one-half full</p> <p>Direct fuel cap in a safe direction before slowly opening</p> <p>Fuel from upwind side to reduce exposure to spilled fuel and vapors</p> <p>Fill tank on bare ground or other noncombustible surface</p> <p>Fill tank outdoors and at least 20 feet from open flame or other source of ignition</p> <p>Fill tank at least 50 feet from water source</p> <p>Immediately clean up spilled fuel</p> <p>Start chainsaw at least 10 feet from the fueling area</p>	IV - Negligible	D - Seldom	4 - Low
Worksite	<p>Potential worksite injuries must be discussed between Trail Work Leader and trail crew before project starts</p> <p>Overhead hazards</p> <p>Down logs in escape route</p> <p>Brush and limbs in worksite</p> <p>Log movement during cutting</p> <p>Slippery and uneven worksite</p>	<p>Make a worksite hazard assessment prior to sawing</p> <p>Check for overhead hazards and NEVER work under overhead hazards</p> <p>Determine escape routes</p> <p>Clear area work site of hazards</p> <p>Pay close attention to footing</p> <p>Post lookouts to alert trail users moving through area</p>	IV - Negligible	D - Seldom	4- Low
Worksite Safety	<p>Potential worksite injuries must be discussed between Trail Work Leader and trail crew throughout the project</p> <p>Log movement during and after cutting</p> <p>Cutting piece track after cutting</p>	<p>Space workforce so the activities of one will not create a hazard</p> <p>Workers not essential for the project must keep outside the safety circle</p> <p>Have workers work on the same contour rather than some working above others</p>	IV - Negligible	D - Seldom	4 - Low

	Potential personnel injury from rain, snow, and / or wind cinditions	Do not saw in the dark or under hazardous weather conditions			
Chainsaw Starting Safety	Serious potential personnel injury during improper chainsaw operation starting techniques	When starting chainsaw make sure that the bar is clear of all obstructions Engage chain brake before starting chainsaw Start chainsaw with one of the following proceedures: 1. Place chainsaw on the ground and hold firmly with one hand and a foot in the handle while pulling the starter rope with the other hand 2. Place the handle of the chainsaw between your legs above your knees, hold firmly with your legs and one hand while pulling the starter rope with your other hand 3. Place the chainsaw bar over a stump or log while holding the handle with one hand and pulling the starter rope with the other hand Air drops and/or throw starts are NOT allowed	IV - Negligible	E -Unlikely	4 - Low
Chainsaw Operation Safety	Serious potential personal injury during improper chainsaw operation	Have your thumb wrapped around the chainsaw handle at all times during cutting. NEVER rise the chainsaw blade above your shoulder Keep your head away from the path of the chainsaw bar in case of a kickback occures When not cutting always have the chain brake on Shut down chainsaw when carrying from worksite to another worksite Let chainsaw cool before carrying between worksites	IV - Negligible	E -Unlikely	4 - Low
Chainsaw Operating Safety	Severe potential personnel injury during improper chainsaw sawing techniques Binds trapping chainsaw blade Log drop when cutting limbs Rolling log pieces Splintering saplings and limbs  Not notifying a NO-GO deciission  Hazardous trail conditions left for other trail users	Anticipate log tensions and compressions, then plan mitigation Use caution when cutting limbs supporting logs off the ground Do not saw on the downhill side of a log Do not saw logs on steep slopes with workers below Carefully relieve tension on saplings and limbs before cutting  Asses all potential hazards using GO/NO-GO checklist  Never leave a hazardous situation, such as a half cut or hung up log	IV - Negligible	E -Unlikely	4 - Low

<p>Cut Plan</p> <hr/> <p>Communications</p>	<p>Serious potential personnel injury during chainsaw sawing from unplanned log movement</p> <hr/> <p>Critical information in case of an injury</p>	<p>Mitigate cut sequences for potential binds based on bearing points and lie of log  Determine mechanics of removing the cut pieces  Execute cut plan  Brief swampers  Remove springpoles first  Observe kerf closely to determine if behavior of log corresponds to predicted bind  Insert wedges on compression side as soon as possible</p> <hr/> <p>Trail Work Leader must have a Trailhead Communication Plan (TCP) and an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) for the trail crew.  If trail crew divides into multiple teams, a copy of the TCP and EAP must accompany each team.  Two-way radios and / or mobile phones for communication between separated teams.  Check in and check out before and after project in accordance with TCP  If an EAP is activated contact BCHW and land management agency</p>	<p>II - Critical</p> <hr/> <p>III - Marginal</p>	<p>D - Seldom</p> <hr/> <p>D - Seldom</p>	<p>3 - Medium</p> <hr/> <p>4 - Low</p>
<p>Felling Operations</p>	<p>Serious potential injury to sawyer, crew or public trail users</p> <p>Struck by snags, down trees, widow makers</p> <p>Rot on the stump affecting holding wood</p> <p>Tripping/struck due to poor escape route</p>	<p>Size Up (Situational Awareness)  From a short distance, walking 360 degrees around tree, look up for widow makers, conk, slipping bark.  Don't move from the escape route towards the felled tree until all movement has stopped.</p> <p>Detect solid or sponge wood by "sounding" with falling axe.  If needed bore into stump looking for coloring in the sawdust</p> <p>Always look for and clear out escape routes 45 degrees away from tree.  Walk out both the escape route and where the tree</p>	<p>I - Catastrophic</p>	<p>D - Seldom</p>	<p>2 - High</p>

<p>Securing Felling Area</p>	<p>Serious potential injury to sawyer, crew or public trail users</p> <p>Potential fatal injury to sawyer, crew or public trail users</p>	<p>is to be felled looking for such hazards as snags, down logs, jill pokes, rocks, stumps, hang ups and low hanging limbs</p> <p>Conduct OHLEC process.</p> <p>The faller has the responsibility and authority to identify, secure, and manage the felling area. A MINIMUM OF 2-1/2 TIMES THE HEIGHT OF MATERIAL BEING FELLED IN ALL DIRECTIONS MUST BE SECURED.</p> <p>No one shall be allowed in the secured felling area without the authorization of the faller</p> <p>In addition on the entire downhill side will be included in the secure area on hillsides with steep slopes where material can roll for long and unpredictable distances</p> <p>A safety zone will be established outside the secured area and everyone must remain there until all felling is completed and the "all clear" has been given by the faller</p> <p>One person shall be appointed and responsible to maintain reliable communications with the faller and the crew members in the safety zone to ensure nobody enters the secured falling area</p> <p>A road or trail guard will be set up on all roads and trails entering and leaving the secured felling area</p> <p>Effective communications must exist between the guards and the faller</p> <p>Before leaving the felling area the faller needs to ensure that no hazards remain such as hang ups, unusable logs, or other dangers</p> <p>To protect the lives of employees, contractors, and the public it is the responsibility of the faller to see that these standards are firmly adhered to</p> <p>It is the responsibility of the supervisors and all employees engaged in chainsaw operations to understand and follow these established standards</p>	<p>1 – Catastro- phic</p>	<p>D – Seldom</p>	<p>2 – High</p>
<p>Felling Plan</p>	<p>Serious potential injury to sawyer , crew or public trail users</p> <p>Potential fatal injury to sawyer, crew or public trail users</p>	<p>Make the horizontal cut of the face 1/3" the diameter of the stump</p> <p>Always match the sloping cut and horizontal cut together, use 2" stump shot (this means make the back cut 2" higher than the horizontal cut</p> <p>Look up as you make all cuts to tree</p> <p>Use a wedge on all back cuts unless the tree has a</p>	<p>1 - Catastro- phic</p>	<p>D – Seldom</p>	<p>2 – High</p>

		<p>heavy lean, or the tree is too small to insert a wedge.          Use adequate felling axe for felling          Always look up after each time of wedge has been driven into tree          Be aware of wind direction and speed          Always leave a minimum of 2" of holding wood across the stump.(DEPENDING ON THE SIZE OF TREE BEING FELLED AND OR CONDITION OF TREE BEING FELLED)          Do not cut corner wood          Always give a warning shout before you start the back cut, NEVER BE AFRAID TO SAY NO</p>			
<p><b>10. LINE OFFICER SIGNATURE</b>  <b>BCHW Safety Committee</b></p>		<p><b>11. TITLE</b>  <b>BCHW Safety Committee</b></p>	<p><b>12. DATE</b>  <b>May 2020</b></p>		