Lessons Learned

Chainsaw accident occurred on 10/2/23.

Summary:

While thinning on a steep slope with poor footing during a wet day, sawyer slipped resulting in the bar and chain striking the left leg just above the knee. Sawyer and medical personnel on scene addressed the laceration and treated the wound. Sawyer was transported to a nearby hospital and released shortly after with eight stitches. Sawyer did have chaps and other PPE on, however due to the way the chain hit the chaps it pulled the chaps to the inside, which slowed the chain enough to result in a minor injury.

Lessons Learned:

* Consider wearing corked boots in steep terrain and wet conditions.
* Ensure you have a sharp chain. Using a dull chain results in “muscling” the saw which becomes unpredictable and uncontrollable.
* Consider your fatigue after a long day of cutting or even cumulative fatigue after a long season. It might make more sense to stop and pick up where you left off the next day.

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|  | |  | | --- | | **Aaron J Pedersen**  **Pacific Northwest**  **Saw Program Manager** | | **USDA Forest Service**  **Fire, Fuels, and Aviation Management**  **Regions 6 & 10** | | **c: 503-349-2109**  [**aaron.pedersen@usda.gov**](mailto:aaron.pedersen@usda.gov) | | [www.fs.fed.us](http://www.fs.fed.us/) | | **Caring for the land and serving people** | |