

Subject: Operating the Chainsaw

Approved: Patrick Bohlen

PROCEDURE: **Operating the Chainsaw**

INTENDED AUDIENCE: LNR personnel with access to Chainsaws

PURPOSE: To train LNR person to operate chainsaw to successfully remove tree and vegetative debris without damage to personnel or infrastructure.

I. Knowledge

- a. Read operators equipment manual (OEM).
- b. Operator should understand kickback, how it happens, and how to prevent it.**
- c. Operator should be familiar with safety and the general operation of the chain saw before attempting its use.

II. Safety

- a. At a minimum, follow the safety requirements listed in the OEM for the equipment being used. It is the employee's responsibility to determine if added Personal Protective Equipment is needed and therefore must consult with their Supervisor prior to starting the task.
- b. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) includes:
 - i. Helmet
 - ii. Hearing protection
 - iii. Gloves
 - iv. Steel toe boots
 - v. Safety goggles
 - vi. Work rated chainsaw chaps
 - vii. Long pants and shirt

III. Pre - Steps for Operating Chainsaw

- a. Check for proper chain grease levels and replenish if necessary.
- b. Check for damaged or worn saw teeth, file to a point if necessary (or see mechanics for filing).

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WARNING: Never operate a chainsaw with loose clothing

WARNING: Never operate a chainsaw alone.

- c. Be sure the chain is tensioned properly before starting engine and that the chain brake is functioning.

Note: If at any time equipment is not working properly, attach a 3x6 tag from the LNR shop area on hand held equipment with a short explanation of the problem. When repair is complete, chainsaw will be staged outside the LNR shop door for pick up.

- d. If equipment is operating properly proceed to work area.

IV. Steps for Operating Chainsaw

- a. Apply the chainsaw brake when starting engine.
- b. Wipe dirt and dust away from filler caps before adding mixed gas.
- c. Check fluids (mixed gas and bar chain oil) and add as needed.
- d. Prime chainsaw.

WARNING: Always check overhead for power lines or obstructions.

WARNING: Always check up the tree for loose or hanging branches (widow makers) that can fall and impact the sawyer.

- e. Set the chain saw on the ground and turn on the choke.

CAUTION: Be sure the chainsaw brake is engaged.

- f. Pull start cord until you hear ignition.
- g. Turn off the choke once ignition is engaged.
- h. Re-pull starter chord and begin sawing operations.

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WARNING: Never operate a chainsaw over chest height.

WARNING: Keep a wide stance to keep balanced, and always use two (2) hands when operating the chain saw.

- i. Use teeth at base of chainsaw to anchor as you cut.

WARNING: Understand kickback, how it happens and how to prevent it.

- j. When felling a tree, saw a 45 degree angle notch halfway through the tree.

WARNING: When felling a tree, ensure two routes of escape are available at 45 degree angles to where the tree is meant to fall.

- k. Use teeth at base of chainsaw to anchor as you cut.

WARNING: When performing back cut, place the chain saw at least two inches (2") above the crux of the 45 degree notch. Always keep an eye on the tree when performing cuts, and be wary of unplanned fall directions.

- l. Perform the back cut by sawing on the opposite side of the tree.

Note: Always attempt to fell tree in the direction it naturally leans unless using a wedge.

CAUTION: When limbing large branches, always perform a three (3) state cut to prevent tearing unintended tissue.

- m. Turn off chainsaw after operation is completed.

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V. After Operation Steps for Chainsaw

- a. Collect any generated debris and dispose of per supervisor's instructions.
- b. Secure the chainsaw in staging area for next use.