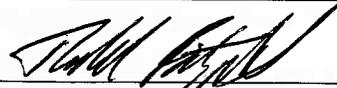




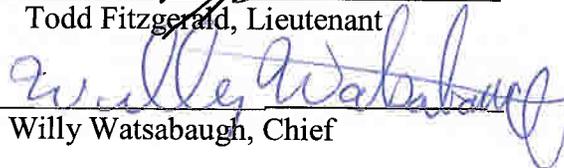
Jackson Hole Fire/EMS Operations Manual

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Title: **Chainsaw Operations**

Approved by:


Willy Watsabaugh, Chief

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PURPOSE

To establish a guideline to indicate the proper maintenance, training, use, and personal protective equipment necessary in order to ensure the safety of fire department personnel when operating a chainsaw or venting chainsaw.

SECTION I – AUTHORITY

Jackson Hole Fire/EMS is the authority having jurisdiction in determining who is qualified to operate chainsaws within the department, on local, as well as, out-of-county inter-agency cooperative assignments. It is the responsibility of the Chief to assure that the department's chainsaws are kept in working order and that all members of the department are trained and in accordance with this guideline.

SECTION II –SCOPE

This guideline applies to all members of Jackson Hole Fire/EMS.

SECTION III – MAINTENANCE/INSPECTION

- Once a year or after extended use the chainsaw shall be inspected and serviced by the department Mechanic. This will ensure the chainsaws are in proper running order and safe to operate.
- **After each use** the chainsaw will be inspected for chain sharpness, proper chain tension, loose or broken parts, chain brake function, throttle trigger and shut off switch operation, clogged air filter and/or chain bar oil hole, wear on the bar, gas and bar oil fluid levels, and back up gas and bar oil reserves. If any problems that are found that cannot be readily resolved immediately, take the chainsaw out of service, and immediately report the problem to your direct supervisor.
- **Before each use** the chainsaw will be inspected for chain sharpness, proper chain tension, loose or broken parts, chain brake function, throttle trigger and shut off switch operation, clogged air filter and/or chain bar oil hole, wear on the bar, gas and bar oil fluid levels, and back up gas and bar oil reserves. If any problems that are found that cannot be readily resolved immediately, take the chainsaw out of service, and immediately report the problem to your direct supervisor. This will allow for the chainsaw to be inspected and serviced, as necessary by the department Mechanic.
- **Before and after every use** the protective leg chaps shall be inspected and taken out of service for repair or replacement, if any holes, cuts or defects are found.

SECTION IV – OPERATIONS

Vent saw operation – Use of chainsaw designed or with modifications for use on cutting buildings and things other than trees. These chainsaws shall only be used for their intended purpose and not for cutting trees.

Tree cutting operation – Use of chainsaws on cutting trees and other woody vegetation. These chainsaws shall only be used for their intended purpose and not for cutting buildings and things other than trees.

SECTION V – TRAINING REQUIREMENTS/ OPERATOR CLASSIFICATION

Vent Saw Operations Training Requirements - All members performing vent operations requiring the use of a chainsaw must meet the following minimum requirements, as well as the PPE requirements outlined in Section VII of this guideline.

- Wyoming State Certified Firefighter II.
- Familiarity with operator's manuals and manufacturer's warnings.
- Proficiency level evaluation from an approved evaluator based upon field demonstration(s), at least once every 3 years.
- Approved physical fitness level for arduous activity.

Tree Cutting Operations Training Requirements – All members performing tree cutting operations requiring the use of a chainsaw must meet the following minimum requirements, as well as the PPE requirements, outlined in Section VII of this guideline.

- Wyoming State Certified Firefighter II.
- NWCG power saw class S- 212 or equivalent or verifiable work experience.
- Familiarity with operator's manuals and manufacturer's warnings.
- Proficiency level evaluation from an approved evaluator based upon field demonstration(s), at least once every 3 years.
- Approved physical fitness level for arduous activity.

Members performing tree cutting operations must adhere to the following faller classification restrictions, as well as meeting the minimum requirements stated above.

Class A Faller – Limited to cutting trees and other woody vegetation up to 8” in diameter.

Operator typically has had less than 1 years worth of experience operating a chainsaw. However, an individual that has had multiple years of occasional operating experience, such as cutting personal firewood or ranch work, may be viewed as not having enough time and breadth of experience to be considered above this level of qualification.

Class B Faller – Limited to trees and other woody vegetation up to 24” in diameter. Operator typically has operated a chainsaw as part of an organized crew for two season within the last three years **or** an individual who has an extensive chainsaw operation background that has an annual opportunity to renew skills **or** an individual who has had 3 years or more experience but has limited background knowledge of problem trees or more complicated cutting scenarios may be considered in this classification.

Class C Faller – Can cut trees greater than 24” in diameter. Operator typically has three or more years of operating a chainsaw as part of an organized crew **or** as part of a profession with experience with problem and hazard tree scenarios may be considered in this category. A professional faller that has cut timber in the northwest may have no restrictions. A faller

whose experience has been predominantly in Colorado, Wyoming, and South Dakota may warrant a restriction of Rocky Mountain Area.

Evaluator – It is recognized that an Evaluator is appraising and making a judgment on an individual's ability to fall, limb and buck trees utilizing a chainsaw at the operator classifications identified above. Certification and recertification is a subjective determination that the chief and assigned evaluators must make based on task evaluations, performance evaluations, and their own judgment of the quality of an individual's experience. In no circumstance is the evaluator guaranteeing the individual's ability to perform within the given operator classification level.

- Evaluators should participate in the power saw class as an instructor, lead or otherwise, and should be current in the operator classification level for which they are evaluating.
- Evaluators will be nominated by the Chief, and submitted to the Wyoming Rural Fire Association's Board, known as the Fire Advisory Board for annual review and approval.
- There is no expiration on Evaluator status as long as they are current in the level for which they are evaluating or unless otherwise determined by the Chief or Fire Advisory Board.

SECTION VI – PROFICIENCY EVALUATION

Per the requirements listed above in Section V, a proficiency evaluation will be performed to assess individual's ability and comfort level in chainsaw operations. Members meeting all other minimum requirements, but not passing this evaluation should not perform chainsaw operations during emergency operations.

SECTION VII – PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Vent saw operations:

- Proper personal protective clothing for fire operations shall be worn, as outlined in Jackson Hole Fire/EMS Policy Standard Fire Company Operations, Div. 16, Article 1.

Tree cutting operation:

- Helmet with eye and hearing protection
- Goggles (optional)
- Long Sleeve Shirt (nomex)
- Gloves
- Chainsaw protective leg chaps
- Heavy boots

SECTION VIII – BUDDY SYSTEM

Chainsaw operators should always work in teams of two, with one firefighter supporting operations and watching for hazards that the chainsaw operator may not see. Some of these hazards include:

- Operators footing
- Tripping hazards
- Unstable tree tops
- Personal or other's entering fall zone
- Fire danger
- Operator fatigue
- Escape routes

SECTION IX –CONCLUSION

Safe chainsaw operation during emergency incidents can be achieved through regular inspections, maintenance, training, evaluations and experience. Using proper protective clothing is essential whenever operating a chainsaw because of the potential of serious injury that can happen from kickback or accident contact with the moving chain. Following this guideline will help in preventing injuries that can occur from the misuse of chainsaw equipment.

SECTION X – SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Wyoming Rural Fire Association, State Meeting, December, 2009, Casper WY
(Chainsaw/Faller Classification)