

REGION 8 TX, AK, & 30 STATES
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FOREST SERVICE HANDBOOK ATLANTA, GA

FSH 6709.11 – HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE HANDBOOK

CHAPTER 20 – WORK PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

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Approved: LIZ AGPAOA
Regional Forester

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New Document(s):	R8 6709.11-2009-1	6 Pages
Superseded Document(s):		

Digest:

22.48 Establishes new direction & policy for Chain Saw and Crosscut Saw Operations

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22 – RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

22.01 – Authority

- a. Title 29, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 1910.266, Logging Operations.
- b. Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 6709.11, Health and Safety Code Handbook.

22.02 – Objective

- a. Develop a program for the safe operation of chain saws/crosscut saws in the workplace.
- b. Protect Forest Service employees, volunteers, cooperators, and the public when operating chain saws/crosscut saws while performing their official duties.
- c. Provide training and certification prior to the operation of chain saws/crosscut saws in accordance with the Training and Certification Procedures section.
- d. Ensure that Forest Service employees, volunteers and cooperators are aware of the requirements for personal protective equipment (PPE) and clothing for chain saw/crosscut saw operations as well as maintenance and care of the PPE.

22.03 – Policy

- a. Forest Service chain saw and crosscut saw activities must comply with the direction of this directive, FSH 6709.11, and comply with 29 CFR 1910.266, Logging Operations.
- b. Only FS employees, volunteers, and cooperators who hold a valid certification issued by the FS may engage in chain saw/crosscut saw operations.

22.4 – Forest Management

22.48 – Chain Saw/Crosscut Saw operations

22.48a - Responsibility

The Southern Regions Safety Officers has primary responsibility for the R8 chain saw and crosscut saw program.

- a. **Regional Foresters and Station Directors**
 - 1. Maintain overall responsibility for the Chain Saw/Crosscut Saw Program on National Forest System lands.
 - 2. Appoint the Regional Chainsaw/Crosscut Saw Program Coordinator.

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b. Regional Chain Saw/Crosscut Saw Program Coordinator

1. Establish the program in conjunction with FSH 6709.11 and 29 CFR 1910.266
2. Monitor the overall program for the Regional Forester and coordinate program compliance with the Regional Safety Manager.
3. Select and recommend individuals to the Forest Supervisor as Class “C” Certifiers. Conduct or provide "train the trainer" work sessions for new "C" Sawyers. Coordinate with the Regional Safety Manager to ensure program compliance.
4. Certify, recertify, guide, counsel, and assist the Forest Lead Chain Saw/Crosscut Saw Program Coordinators.
5. Investigate and review all chain saw incidents.
6. Evaluate and approve private consultants to assist in chain saw training.
7. Coordinate annual meetings of Forest Lead Chain Saw/Crosscut Saw Program Coordinators and “C” Certifiers.

c. Forest Supervisors

1. Administer policy and direction as set forth by the Regional Forester and Station Directors.
2. Act as Approving Officer/Authorizing Official when certifying/recertifying “C” Certifiers
3. Appoint the Forest Lead Chain Saw/Crosscut Saw Program Coordinator

d. Region, Station, Forest, District, or Unit Safety and Health Managers

1. Ensure hearing conservation plans, first aid, CPR, and blood borne pathogens programs are in place.
2. Serve as a member of Regional or Forest accident investigation team.

e. District Rangers and Unit Managers

1. Request training and certification, to be coordinated by the Forest Lead Chain Saw /Crosscut Saw Program Coordinator.
2. Act as Approving Officer/Authorizing Official for chain saw and crosscut saw evaluations for “A”, “B”, and “C” sawyers.
3. Have ultimate authority to revoke certificates at any time.

f. Forest Lead Chainsaw/Crosscut Saw Program Coordinator(s)

1. Train, evaluate, certify, recertify, and assist other certifiers at the unit.
2. Act as the primary contact for all other certifiers on the forest or unit.
3. Coordinate with the Occupational Safety and/or Fire Safety Manager/Coordinator to achieve and maintain a standardized saw program throughout the forest or unit.
4. Select and recommend individuals to the Forest Supervisor as potential Class “C” sawyers.

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5. Sign and issue certification cards for class “A”, “B” and “C” sawyers upon approval of the Forest Supervisor/District Ranger.
6. Sign evaluation forms as “Recommending Official”
7. Maintain certification records
8. Maintain a minimum “C” certification

22.48b – Qualifications

This guidance sets forth Eastern and Southern Region and Research Station policy and procedures for chain saw/crosscut saw operations.

1. Training and Certification Procedures

- a. All chain saw training shall use MTDC Chainsaw and Crosscut Saw Training Course 0667-2804-MTDC 2006 Edition or National Wildfire Coordinating Group Course, S-212 Wild Fire Chain Saws (for fire operations). Supplemental course materials can be used in addition, but not as a substitute. “A”, “B” and “C” ratings are achieved by successful demonstration of skills based on the complexity of material being cut. The complexity of the material to be cut; not the diameter, determines the skill level required to safely complete a sawing task. Complexity is determined by evaluating the amount of material, bind(s), topography, stability, proper equipment, personal experience, and any other factors that will affect the saw operation.
- b. Certifications are valid for 3 years for classes “A”, “B”, and “C”
- c. **Class “A” Sawyer** - Apprentice saw operators using saws for felling and bucking are limited to lower cutting/sawing complexity as outlined in the MTDC Chainsaw and Crosscut Saw Training Course 0667-2804-MTDC 2006 Edition. Certification is primarily limited to brushing and bucking activities. Minimum training requirements include 16-32 hours of instruction and field examination including classroom discussion on Forest Service policy and procedures. Additional field training will be determined by the certifier, based on previous experience and field examination of trainee. “A” sawyers must be accompanied by a “B” or “C” certified sawyer during saw work activity in the field.
- d. **Class “B” Sawyer** - Intermediate saw operator certification includes skills in felling, bucking, and brush cutting of materials of moderate cutting/sawing complexity as outlined in the MTDC Chainsaw and Crosscut Saw Training Course 0667-2804-MTDC 2006 Edition. Minimum training requirements include 16-32 hours of instruction and field examination including classroom discussion on Forest Service policy and procedures. Additional field training will be determined by the certifier, based on previous experience and field examination of trainee. Class “B” sawyers can conduct training for Class “A” and “B” sawyers if recommended by a Class “C” sawyer or “C” Certifier and approved by the Approving Officer/Authorizing Official. Class “B” sawyers that

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are successful at training and show demonstrated skill should be considered for advancement to Class “C” sawyer certification.

- e. **Class “C” Sawyer** - Advanced sawyer certification includes working ability in felling, bucking, and brushing of materials of high cutting/sawing complexity as outlined in the MTDC Chainsaw and Crosscut Saw Training Course 0667-2804-MTDC 2006 Edition. Class “C” sawyers are qualified to conduct classroom and field training at the “A”, “B”, and “C” level. They are also qualified to field certify “A” and “B” level sawyers. Forest Lead Chainsaw/Crosscut Saw Program Coordinator will schedule, coordinate, and ensure training is completed by a “C” certifier.
- f. **“C” Certifier** – “C” Certifier sawyer certification includes working ability in felling, bucking, and brushing of materials of high cutting/sawing complexity as outlined in the MTDC Chainsaw and Crosscut Saw Training Course 0667-2804-MTDC 2006 Edition. “C” Certifiers have demonstrated communication skills, the ability to transfer and relate concepts to others, and applicable knowledge of policy and regulations pertaining to saws and related equipment. Candidates must be appointed by the Forest Supervisor. “C” Certifier certification and re-certification requires one “C” Certifier and one “C” Sawyer. Ideally, one “C” Certifier is an independent consultant sawyer or is a “C” Certifier from another Forest Service administrative unit (a Regional or Forest Lead Chain Saw/Crosscut Saw Program Coordinator).

2. Recertification

- a. Recertification is required every three years for all levels of chain saw operation.
- b. Recertification shall last a minimum of eight hours (up to 16 hours if necessary) and consists of the following:
 - 1. Each sawyer must demonstrate their current sawyer class certification can be performed.
 - 2. New techniques, equipment, job hazard analysis, lessons learned, and field exercise demonstrating sawyer proficiency.
 - 3. Discussion of current Forest Service policy and other administrative requirements.
- c. The instructor shall complete the R8 Saw Operator Field Evaluation Form (See Exhibit 01).
- d. Upon completion of evaluation, the instructor shall issue the Certification Card (See Exhibit 02) to employee and retain a copy for agency files.

3. Annual Refresher

- a. Due to the infrequency of chainsaw use, an annual “field based” refresher is required. Emphasis on saw handling techniques, felling techniques, and hazard determination and abatement must be actively demonstrated in a field setting. Refreshers, at a minimum, should cover discussion of Regional policy, situational awareness, lessons learned, and job hazard analysis.

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- b. Documentation of the refresher shall be recorded on the Job Hazard Analysis.
- c. If a volunteer transfers to another unit within R8, an refresher session shall be required and a new volunteer agreement implemented.

4. Certification Signature and Instructor Requirements

		"A"	"B"	"C"	"C" CERTIFIER	
FIELD EVAL FORM (R8 approved form)	Signature	2 signatures Instructor as "Recomm" and LO as "Authorizing"	2 signatures Instructor as "Recomm" and LO as "Authorizing"	2 signatures Instructor as "Recomm" and LO as "Authorizing"	<u>Certification</u> 2 Signatures Instructor as "Recomm" and LO as "Authorizing"	<u>Re-Certification</u> 2 signatures Instructor as "Recomm" and LO as "Authorizing"
	Instructor	"C" Sawyer or "B" that has been approved by "C"	"C" Sawyer or "B" that has been approved by "C"	"C" Certifier or Professional Consultant	Regional Saw Program Coordinator and another "C" Certifier or Professional Consultant	One "C"- Certifier (at least one not from local unit or a Professional Consultant) and one "C" sawyer
WALLET CARD (valid for 3 years)	Signature	"B" or "C" Instructor	"B" or "C" Instructor	"C" Certifier	Forest Supervisor	