

New Durham Fire Department Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG)

SOG 313 Forestry Chain Saw Operations

PURPOSE: To insure the safe utilization of chain saws

SCOPE: All members using a chain saw.

SPECIFICS:

Chain saw use at Forestry-Wildfire incidents shall only be allowed by a trained operator or sawyer.

Equipment Required:

- Hardhat
- Hearing Protectors
- Safety Goggles
- Sure Grip Gloves
- Safety Shoes
- Cutting Chaps
- Trim Fitting Clothes

Guidelines:

- a.** A snag crew will survey area of fire and remove any snags before overhaul is started. Only snags which present a clear hazard will be felled. Only use chain saw if other methods will not work, i.e. rope.
- b.** Before felling tree or snag, all personnel within the radius of 2X the tree height shall withdraw
- c.** Chain saw will be operated in a safe and manageable manor at all times.
 - Start saw on ground with foot through handle(DO NOT DROP START!)
 - Keep air filter clean.
 - Keep bar oiled-check operation if automatic
 - Keep chain sharp.
 - Keep chain at proper tension.
 - Make sure chain brake operates.

Felling procedure: The sawyer shall cut notch on drop side, called a Face Cut, and cut on back side toward notch. The face cut is a 70 degree angle notch 80% in length of

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diameter and 20% of diameter in depth. Use a bore cut leaving hinge section and a small uncut section opposite face cut. Remove saw and use wedge to finish the fall.

When tree is ready to fall, alert crews by shouting "Tree Falling".
Withdraw at a 45 degree angle from fall direction.

Before felling any tree determine fall direction by considering wind direction and condition of tree. A dead or rotted tree may not fall the way expected. Always plan an escape route before felling any tree. The tree shall be felled so as not to get caught or hung up in other trees or branches. Any hung up trees or snags must be removed before personnel are allowed back in fall area

Avoid use that may produce "KICK BACK".

- Do not cut with top quarter of bar tip.
- Do not cut with saw above shoulders.

Use wedges when needed to control fall direction and keep bar from binding. Use only wood, aluminum or plastic wedges.

Any area where it is too hazardous to fell snags, rope or tape off area to keep personnel out of area.