

Alton Fire & Rescue Department Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG)

SOG 2.2.11 Chain Saw Operations (Ref SOP 2.2.11)

PURPOSE: To insure the safe utilization of chain saws

SCOPE: All members using a chain saw.

SPECIFICS:

Chain saw use shall only be allowed by trained operators.

DATE: Approved 4/27/2010

Alton Fire & Rescue Department Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)

SOP 2.2.11 Chain Saw Operations

PURPOSE: To insure the safe utilization of chain saws

SCOPE: All members using a chain saw in wildland operations.

SPECIFICS:

The following are minimum requirements for chainsaw operators:

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

Guidelines:

- 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 a chainsaw if other methods will not work, i.e. rope.
- Before felling tree or snag, all personnel within the radius of 2X the tree height shall withdraw from the area
- 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.

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.

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