



CHAIN SAW SAFETY

Target Audience: This course is designed specifically for DOT District employees, municipal public works, streets/roads, parks, water utility and/or other city or county employees who engage in ground limb/vegetation debris removal, are exposed to common chain saw work hazards and the risks associated with limb debris machines and tools.

Supervisors and Trainers: Also recommended for division supervisors, agency safety officers, department safety coordinators, and equipment trainers.

Post-storm (Additional Emergency On-Call Operators): After natural disasters, it is not uncommon to call on new operators (from other divisions even) to assist as back-up chain saw debris removal crews as primary workers fatigue or are rotated on shifts. This program would orient these additional workers as standby crews.

Trainees will receive a Training Certificate!



For more information or to inquire about upcoming training dates:

Email: info@wetrainamerica.com

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Website: WeTrainAmerica.com

Classroom Part

Accident Case Studies: As an introduction, a number of recent city/county employee accident cases are reviewed. Each represents a likely severe injury or fatality scenario related to chain saw work.

Personal Protective Equipment and Clothing: Types of chain saw chaps, gloves, hard hats, shoes, eye wear and other protective gear is featured.

Chain Saw Safety: We conduct an in-depth review of safe work practices related to chain saws including choosing the right saw, maintenance, proper use, avoiding kick-backs, trouble shooting and stowing.

Power Line Issues: Risks related to using chain saws near high voltage wires are covered including close proximity to above ground wires. It illustrates how tree limbs are a perfect conductor of high voltage power.

Other Hazards: Heat stress, lightning, poisonous plants, insects/ bees and other hazards incidental to chain saw work are presented.



Field Exercise Part

A field exercise can be conducted where select or all individuals perform various segments of actual “hands-on” chain saw operation.

1) Hazard Assessment

- Power lines
- Rotted limbs
- Rotted trunk
- Insects
- Objects at Risk
- Personnel
- Fall zone

2) Saw Inspection

- Guards
- Fuel, Oil, (Filler cap good, level full, no leaks)
- Dirt/dust/Chips buildup
- Chain tightness
- Chain brake
- Tip “kickback” guard
- Pull Chord

3) Starting

- Saw on ground
- Switch on
- Choke (y/n)
- Foot in handle
- Stable full range pull
- Quickly starts

4) Saw Handling/Position

- Stance
- Position
- Grip
- Extending/lean limit
- Up-hill/out of fall/roll zone/pinch point
- Carrying

5) Attack

- Near saw body
- No upper tip use
- Upper blade use
- Grip/grab tooth use
- Forcing/bending

6) Pre-cuts

- Face cut
- Hinge wood
- Bore
- Back strap

7) Stump Grinding

- Equipment
- Techniques
- Hazards

8) Wood Chippers (on request)

- Proper Operation
- Techniques
- Hazards

