



# CHAINSAW

## Operation & Safety Certification Course



Typically provided as a 1-day course, training includes classwork in the morning and hands-on instruction in the afternoon. Course is designed as an introduction for new employees and as a safety refresher for more experienced employees who may be called on to engage in ground limb/vegetation debris removal, with exposure to common chainsaw work hazards and the risks associated with limb debris machines and tools. This course also benefits standby workers who may be called on to provide relief for primary workers in post-storm debris removal efforts. In some states, course qualifies for CEU or PDH hours.

### Classroom Summary:

**Accident Case Studies:** Recent city/county employee accident cases are reviewed, each representing a likely severe injury or fatality scenario with chainsaw work.

**Personal Protective Equipment & Clothing:** Types of chainsaw chaps, gloves, hard hats, shoes, eye wear and other protective gear are featured.

**Chain Saw Safety:** An in-depth review of safe work practices related to chain saws including choosing the right saw, maintenance, proper use, avoiding kickbacks, troubleshooting and stowing.

**Power Line Issues:** Risks related to using chainsaws near high voltage wires are covered including proximity to above ground wires, illustrating 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 Exercises:** To be conducted where select or all individuals perform various segments of actual hands-on chainsaw operations.

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 cord
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, uphill/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 and bending
6. **Pre-Cuts:** Face cut, hinge wood, bore, back strap
7. **Stump Grinding:** Equipment, techniques, hazards
8. **Woodchippers (on request):** Proper operation, techniques, hazards

