Back Country Horsemen of Idaho

Job Hazard Analysis (JHA)

Crosscut Saw & Chainsaw Operations

Objective: Overview of JHA for Back Country Horsemen of Idaho for crosscut saw and chainsaw operations for Tailgate Safety Briefing.

Reference: USDA FOREST SERVICE SAW OPERATIONS GUIDE 2014 Electronic Edition v 1.3 21 November 2014

Communication: Conduct a tailgate briefing session at the beginning of each project. Review scope of project work. Review proper tool usage. Review worksite specific Emergency Evacuation Procedures (EEP). Review communication plan tailored to the scope of the project. Complete land management agency's administrative process in accordance with their required provisions. Complete land management agency's required communication process in accordance with required provisions.

Personnel Protection: Consider one's physical capabilities for doing the job one is asked to do. Have experienced workers do the job one is asked to do. Be prepared for the work project with proper clothing, rain gear, and adequate food and water. Use Personnel Protective Equipment (PPE) as required by the reference. Use eye protection, hearing protection with chainsaws, gloves, long sleeved shirts, hard hats, leather boots, and chainsaw chaps (optional for crosscut sawing). Have a first aid kit for the workforce. No one works alone; always have two people working together.

Equipment: Follow manufacture's safety, operation, and maintenance recommendations for specific saws. Chain saws must have a functional chain brake. Have an axe, wedges, maul or single bit axe, spare chainsaw chain, chainsaw wrench, and WD-40 appropriate for the project available. Have approved leak proof containers for chainsaw fuel and oil.

Travel to worksite: Use covering sheath for saws and tool guards for trail tools. Use proper transport for saws and trail tools carried on trail stock. Foot traffic travel 10 feet apart and

carry tools properly. Carry saws on downhill side pointing toward the ground and away from your body. Carry crosscut saw with teeth facing outward and remove rear handle when walking to worksites.

Worksite: A worksite hazard assessment shall be conducted prior to all sawing and reassessed as the project progresses. Survey the worksite and check for overhead hazards. Never work under overhead hazards. Determine and communicate escape route. Work uphill of log, unless you can work safely otherwise. Post lookouts to alert trail users moving through the area. Clear area where working and pay attention to your footing.

Worksite Safety: Space workforce so the activities of one will not create a hazard for another, especially when leap-frogging. Workers not essential for the mission must keep outside a safety circle. Have workers and cutting crew work on the same contour rather than some working above others. Do not saw in the dark or under hazardous weather condition.

Sawing Safety: When starting a chainsaw make sure the bar is clear of all obstructions. Engage the chain brake before starting a chainsaw. Start the chain saw with one of the following procedures:

1. Place chainsaw on the ground and hold firmly with one hand and a foot in the handle while pulling the starter rope with the other hand.
2. Place the handle of the chainsaw between your legs above your knees, hold firmly with your legs and one hand while pulling the starter rope with your other hand.
3. Place the chainsaw chain bar over a stump or log while holding the handle with one hand and pulling the starter rope with the other hand.

Unsupported air drop or throw starts when the chainsaw is supported by only one hand are not allowed.

Sawing Procedures: Anticipate log tensions and compressions and plan mitigation. Use caution when cutting limbs supporting logs off the ground. Do not saw from the downhill side. Do not buck logs on steep slopes with people below. Carefully relieve tension on saplings and limbs before cutting.

Chainsaw Safety: Have your thumb wrapped around the chainsaw handle bar at all times during cutting. Never raise the body of the chain saw above your head. Keep your head away

from the path of the chainsaw bar if a kickback occurs. When not cutting always have the chain break on. Shut down the chainsaw when carrying from worksite to worksite. Let the chainsaw cool before carrying between worksites.

Fueling Safety: Allow chainsaw to cool at least 5 minutes before refueling. Fill tank on bare ground or another noncombustible surface. Fill the tank at least 200 feet from water sources. Fill tank outdoors and at least 20 feet from open flame or another source of ignition. Start the chainsaw at least 10 feet from the fueling area.

Work supervisors and crew members are responsible for participating in a Tailgate Safety Briefing before each worksite project and acknowledge participation in the discussion of this JHA (as applicable). They are also responsible for completing the land management agency's administrative process in accordance with their required provisions.

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