

22.48c - Personal Protective Equipment

Maintain PPE in a clean and fully functioning condition (FSH 6709.11, sec. 20.13, p. 70-12). The following PPE is required for sawing operations.

Table 1- Non-fire PPE requirements for saw use

| PPE | Chain Saw Operations | Crosscut Saw Operations |
|---------------------------------|--|---|
| Hard Hat | Hard hat or cutting helmet meeting ANSI Z89.1 | Same as chain saw |
| Safety Glasses | ANSI Z87.1 (clear safety glasses, at a minimum) or equivalent (mesh “bug-eye” type or mesh face shield type) (OSHA 1910.266(d) (1) (vii) (B) Note) | Same as chain saw |
| Hearing Protection | Hearing protection required for gasoline powered chain saw use | None required |
| Gloves | Gloves or chain saw mitts are required for all chain saw operations. Leather required for sharpening. Alternative style of gloves may be used for inclement weather conditions, based on JHA. | Same as chain saw |
| Shirt, Pants¹ | Long sleeved shirt and long pants. | Long sleeved shirt and long pants. |
| Leg Protection | Chaps or cut-resistant pants for chain saw use shall meet the requirements of Forest Service 6170-4 or ASTM F-1897 (current version). Chaps shall overlap boots at least 2”. | None required |
| Boots | Cut-resistant or leather, laced 8 inch (204mm) high boots that provide ankle support and nonskid soles (hard toes are optional). OPTIONAL-Use JHA to determine proper footwear for the environment and/or related tasks. | Cut- resistant or leather, laced boots that provide ankle support and nonskid soles (hard toes are optional). Use JHA to determine proper footwear for the environment and/or associated tasks. |

¹ Short sleeved shirts may be used based on a JHA

Table 2-Fireline PPE requirements for saw use²

| PPE | Chain Saw Operations | Crosscut Saw Operations |
|---------------------------|--|--|
| Specialized PPE | Wear additional PPE as identified by local conditions, safety data sheets (SDS), or JHA/RA. | Same as chain saw |
| Hard Hat | Hard hat meeting NFPA 1977. | Same as chain saw |
| Safety Glasses | ANSI Z87.1 (clear safety glasses, at a minimum) or equivalent (mesh “bug-eye” type). | Same as chain saw |
| Hearing Protection | Hearing protection required for gasoline powered chain saw use. | None required |
| Gloves | Leather gloves are required for all chain saw operations and sharpening. | Same as chain saw |
| Shirt, Pants | Nomex long sleeved shirt and Nomex long pants. | Same as chain saw |
| Leg Protection | Chaps meeting the requirements of Forest Service specifications 6170-4. Chaps shall overlap boots at least 2”. | None required |
| Boots | Leather, laced 8 inch (204mm) high boots with nonskid soles. | Leather, laced 8 inch (204mm) high boots with nonskid soles. |
| Specialized PPE | Wear additional PPE as identified by local conditions, material safety data sheets (MSDS), or JHA/RA. | Same as chain saw |

22.48d - Equipment Requirements

Use and maintain chain saws and crosscut saws in accordance with the manufacturer’s recommendations.

1. Chain Saw Requirements.

a. Required Features. The following features are required for chain saws used on NFS lands:

- (1) A fully functioning throttle trigger interlock, which prevents the throttle from engaging unless the interlock is depressed on the handle.
- (2) A fully functioning anti-vibration system.

² See FSH 6709.11 ch. 25.12

- (3) A fully functioning chain brake.
- (4) A functional chain catch pin.
- (5) A functional spark arrestor screen.
- (6) Proper length bar and power head sized for the specific sawing project or activity.
- (7) A properly filed and maintained chain that is appropriate for the sawyer's certification level and the specific sawing project or activity. For example, a reduced kickback chain is appropriate for less experienced sawyers. Longer bars and chisel or full/semi- skip chain is appropriate for more experienced sawyers.
- (8) A bar guard that is adequate to cover the muffler, chain, and bumper spikes when the saw is carried on the shoulder.
- (9) A scabbard that is adequate for carrying the saw at the side.

b. Recommended Features. Bumper spikes are recommended for felling and bucking. A full wrap-around or three-quarter wrap-around handle bar is recommended for felling.

c. Required Additional Equipment. The following additional equipment is required for chain saw operations:

- (1) A first aid kit that meets OSHA standards (29 CFR 1910.266, Appendix A).
- (2) A chain saw bar wrench.
- (3) A chain file with a handle and guard.
- (4) An approved safety container for chain saw fuel.
- (5) Proper wedges for the specific sawing project or activity. Wooden wedges are not permitted.
- (6) A 3-to-5-pound single bit axe. Custom tools, ('pounders') are not acceptable.

c. Optional Additional Equipment. A pruning saw.

2. Crosscut Saw Requirements.

a. Required Features. The following features are required for crosscut saws:

- (1) The proper length for the sawing project or activity.
- (2) Proper type, tooth pattern and length of saw for task that is also properly sharpened and set.

(3) Handles.

(4) A sheath.

b. Required Additional Equipment. The following additional equipment is required for use of crosscut saws on NFS lands:

(1) A first aid kit that meets OSHA standards (29 CFR 1910.266, Appendix A).

(2) Proper wedges for the specific sawing project or activity. Wooden wedges are not permitted.

(3) A 3-to-5-pound single bit axe. Custom tools ('pounders') are not acceptable.

(4) Crosscut saw lubricant.

c. Optional Additional Equipment. The following additional equipment is optional:

(1) A double-bit axe.

(2) An under-buck tool.

(3) A pair of hanging wedges.

(4) A pruning saw.

(5) Digging tools.

Refer to sections 12.2 and 12.5 of this chapter for further direction on equipment requirements for vehicles and for transporting saws and fuel. Refer to sections 41, 43, and 44 of this chapter for direction on requirements for handtools, power tools, and heavy equipment.