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| Revision #:  Written by: | Date: Month DD, YYYY  Approved by: |

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| Related Documents: | * The Forest Professional: Guidelines for the Stewards of Tomorrow’s Forest by NS Forestry Safety Association. * Owner’s Manual for Chainsaw * Part 8 Mechanical Safety of OHS General Regulations |
| When to use this SWP: | Operation of any chainsaw must be performed according to farm procedures, formal training, and manufacturers recommended operating guidelines. |
| Hazards & Risks: | * Cuts * Kickback * Pinching * Fuel spills * Noise * Vibration * Eye injuries * Chain break |
| Personal Protective Equipment: | CSA/ANSI approved protective foot wear, safety glasses, hardhat with face shield, chainsaw pants or chaps, hearing protection and Chainsaw/Antivibration/task specific gloves. No loose clothing. |
| Training Requirements: | * Chainsaw Safety Course or Training by Competent Person * Use of basic PPE |
| Communication Process: | Read the owner’s manual and follow the instruction and guidelines found in the manual. If working alone, let someone know your work location and check in regularly. If possible, have a second person work with you when operating a chain saw. |
| Equipment & Supplies: | * First Aid Kit – Kept in work area within reach. * Fire Extinguisher – Kept at fueling station. * Spill kit – Kept at fueling station. * Cell Phone or Two-way radio |
| Procedure/Practice:   * Chainsaw meets CSA Z62.1 and CSA Z62.3 standards. * Wear personal protective equipment (PPE) set out in the manufacturer specifications such as CSA/ANSI approved chainsaw pants/chaps, steel toe boots, hardhat with face shield, safety glasses, hearing protection, and gloves. * Operator should be given permission and deemed competent in the safe use and operation. * Inspect the chainsaw before use. * Ensure that the chain brake is functioning properly and adequately stops the chain. * The chain must be sharp, have the correct tension and be adequately lubricated. * The correct methods of starting, holding, carrying, or storage and use of the saw as directed by the manufacturer must be used. * Fueling must be done in a well-ventilated area and not while the saw is running or hot. * Do not smoke or have other sources of ignition in the fueling area or while refueling. * An approved safety container must be used to contain the fuel used along with a proper spout or funnel for pouring. * Have a spill kit on hand for fuel or oil spills. * When carrying a chainsaw, the chain bar must be toward the back and the motor must be toward the front. The chain break must be engaged. * The operator shall ensure that the work area is clear of obstructions that may be hazardous. * Keep an escape path in the opposite direction of the object or tree being cut. * No adjustment shall be made to the chain while the engine is running. * Chainsaws shall not be operated for cuts above shoulder level. * Operate the chainsaw always with two hands, unless otherwise specified by the manufacturer. * Do no operate a chainsaw when fatigued. * The engine shall be shut off when moving the power saw from one location to another, except when in close proximity and the approach is unobstructed. * When the engine is running, the chainsaw is between cuts, the chain brake shall be applied. * A chainsaw shall be flagged and removed from service immediately if any defects are evident that could affect its safe operation and the owner, manager, or supervisor notified. * When chainsaws are stored or being carried a long distance, the chain should be guarded. * When not in use, the saw shall be turned off and placed in a location where it is clear of the work area and it will not be damaged by falling objects. * Kickback may occur when the nose or tip of the guide bar touches an object, or when the wood closes in and pinches the saw chain in the cut. * Use replacement bars and chains specified by the manufacturer or the equivalent.   Starting & Using the Chainsaw:   1. Check the sharpness of the chain, and sharpen if necessary. 2. Check chain tension and adjust if necessary. 3. Check gas and oil levels, top up levels in a well-ventilated area and away from soft surfaces such as grass. 4. Put on CSA/ANSI approved PPE as listed above applicable to the task performed. 5. Ensure chain brake is on and all safety features are engaged. 6. Start the chainsaw on the ground or use 2 points of contact. Any method that uses the chain brake and ensures that the saw is secured by two points of contact is acceptable. “Two points of contact” means that the saw is securely held at two points while one hand is used to pull the starting cord. For example, the operator’s left hand holds the saw for one point of contact while the saw is held between the operator’s legs for the second point of contact. Or the operator’s left hand holds the saw for one point of contact while his right foot securely holds the saw on the ground for the second point of contact. 7. Ensure you have sound footing and good positioning. Release chain break. 8. Make the cut with feet firmly planted on the ground. Reapply chain break. 9. Before moving ensure chain brake is re-engaged (pivot but no travel rule). 10. Continue process until finished cutting. 11. Check the saw for damage or concerns. 12. Re-sharpen if necessary. | |
| Emergency Procedures: | In case of emergency, contact 911 and the farm owner immediately. Remove yourself from harm’s way and ensure no one else is at risk. |