***Note:*** *The following policy and work practices are in writing as a* ***Best Practice****.**Please modify or delete content as deemed necessary.*

**Chainsaw Safety Policy**

**(Reference 29 CFR 1910.266)**

**Working Safely with Chainsaws**

The chainsaw is one of the most efficient and productive portable power tools used in the industry. It can also be one of the most dangerous. If you learn to operate it properly and maintain the saw in good working condition, you can avoid injury as well as be more productive.

**Before Starting the Saw**

* Check controls, chain tension, and all bolts and handles to ensure they are functioning properly

and adjusted according to the manufacturer's instructions.

* Fuel the saw at least 10 feet from sources of ignition.
* Check the fuel container for the following requirements:
  + Must be metal or plastic
  + Must not exceed a 5 gallon capacity
  + Must be approved by the Underwriters Laboratory (UL), Factory Mutual (FM), the
  + Department of Transportation (DOT), or other Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL).

**Fueling a Chainsaw**

* Use approved containers for transporting fuel to the saw.
* Dispense fuel at least 10 feet away from any sources of ignition when performing construction activities*. No smoking during fueling.*
* Use a funnel or a flexible hose when pouring fuel into the saw.
* Never attempt to fuel a running or HOT saw.

**Chainsaw Safety**

* Clear away dirt, debris, small tree limbs and rocks from the saw's chain path. Look for nails, spikes or other metal in the tree before cutting.
* Shut off the saw or engage its chain brake when carrying the saw on rough or uneven terrain.
* Keep your hands on the saw's handles, and maintain secure footing while operating the saw.
* Proper personal protective equipment must be worn when operating the saw, which includes hand, foot, leg, eye, face, hearing and head protection.
* Do not wear loose-fitting clothing.
* Be careful that the trunk or tree limbs will not bind against the saw.
* Watch for branches under tension, they may spring out when cut.
* Gasoline-powered chainsaws must be equipped with a protective device that minimizes chainsaw kickback.
* Be cautious of saw kick-back. To avoid kick-back, do not saw with the tip. If equipped, keep tip guard in place.

**While Running the Saw**

* Keep hands on the handles, and maintain secure footing while operating the chainsaw.
* Clear the area of obstacles that might interfere with cutting the tree or using the retreat path.
* Do not cut directly overhead.
* Shut off or release throttle prior to retreating.
* Shut off or engage the chain brake whenever the saw is carried more than 50 feet, or across hazardous terrain.
* Be prepared for kickback; use saws that reduce kickback danger (chain brakes, low kickback chains, guide bars, etc.).

**Personal Protective Equipment**

Personal protective equipment (PPE), for the head, ears, eyes, face, hands, and legs are designed to prevent or lessen the severity of injuries to loggers and other workers using chainsaws. PPE must be inspected prior to use on each work shift to ensure it is in serviceable condition

The following PPE must be used when hazards make it necessary:

* Head protection
* Hearing protection
* Eye/face protection
* Leg protection
* Foot protection
* Hand protection

**Training**

Employers involved in tree removal/logging are required to assure that their employees are able to safely perform their assigned tasks. When loggers are trained to work safely, they should be able to anticipate and avoid injury from the job-related hazards they may encounter. Training requirements include:

* Specific work procedures, practices and requirements of the work site, including the recognition,

prevention, and control of general safety and health hazards.

* Requirements of the logging standard, 29 CFR 1910.266.
* Requirements of the bloodborne pathogens standard, 29 CFR 1910.1030.
* First aid and CPR training.
* How to safely perform assigned work tasks, including the specific hazards associated with each task and the measures and work practices which will be used to control those hazards.
* How to safely use, operate, and maintain tools, machines and vehicles which the employee will

be required to utilize in completing the assigned requirements.