



AMC CHAINSAW POLICY

Inter-Chapter Trail Committee

November 9, 2016

The Appalachian Mountain Club recognizes that many staff and volunteer trail workers use chainsaws in their work. They are an effective tool, but can pose hazards to both the operator and others. While AMC recognizes that individual trail workers have primary responsibility for their own personal safety, the AMC has created this policy to help ensure that all chainsaw users are trained and certified in both saw operation and in the hazards present from both the saw and from the nature of the work being performed. This policy establishes minimum standards of training and certifications, as well as minimum personal protective equipment (PPE), expected of all AMC staff and volunteers when a chainsaw is in use.

Below the terms sawyer and swamper are used throughout. A sawyer is the chainsaw operator and a swamper is the assistant who clears brush from around the sawyer; the swamper does not use a chainsaw.

Chainsaw Use Policy

- In all cases, sawyers or the leaders of their work parties or of trail crews must obtain land manager/owner permission before using chainsaws
 - It will be at the discretion of the land manager/owner if permission is needed each time a chainsaw is used or an ongoing agreement can be signed
- If the land unit which the sawyer will operate on has a higher standard of trainings, certifications, and/or PPE requirements than those outlined in this AMC policy, then those land unit standards must be followed
- If the land unit which the sawyer will operate on has no rules or regulations, or lower standards than this AMC policy, these AMC standards must still be followed by AMC sawyers and swampers
- A sawyer must always have a swamper nearby to help in the project work and to act as a first responder in the event of an accident
- A sawyer is only allowed to use a chainsaw to the degree that he/she is certified in his/her chainsaw training course(s)
- A sawyer must be at least 18-years old. A swamper must be at least 16-years old.

Minimum Trainings & Certifications

- Sawyers and swampers must hold valid Wilderness First Aid (WFA) or higher first aid certification
- Sawyers and swampers must hold valid CPR certification

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Additional Offices: Bretton Woods, NH • Greenville, ME • Portland, ME • New York, NY • Bethlehem, PA



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- Swampers are not required to be trained in chainsaw use
 - Sawyers must maintain valid certification in one of the following chainsaw trainings:
 - AMC Chainsaw Training
 - Appalachian Trail Conservancy Chainsaw Training
 - Northeast Forest and Fire Management, LLC Chainsaw Safety Training
 - Missoula Technology and Development Center Chainsaw Course
 - Game of Logging
 - S-212 Wildland Fire Chainsaw Course

Minimum Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Sawyers and swampers are required to meet the PPE standards of whatever chainsaw certification they hold valid, or they must use the below PPE, whichever is a higher requirement:
 - Sawyers and swampers must have:
 - First Aid Kit (FAK)
 - Must be kept at work site
 - Minimum acceptable contents for a specific chainsaw-use FAK found in addendum below
 - Helmet with six-point suspension
 - Ear protection
 - Eye protection
 - Gloves
 - Long pants
 - Kevlar or all-leather boots, at least 6” high on ankle
 - Additionally, sawyers must wear chainsaw chaps that reach to the instep of their boot

To the Extent Feasible, AMC will

- Allow any sawyer holding valid certification from any of the above stated chainsaw training programs to operate on AMC owned land
- Host AMC Chainsaw Trainings throughout the entire AMC region (Potomac to Maine) at reduced cost to volunteer participants
- Extend the limits of its general liability insurance policy insuring the Club and its agents against damages arising out of acts of authorized persons in furtherance of official Club Activities. To be personally covered by AMC’s liability insurance policy, sawyers/swampers must:
 - Be current AMC members acting in accordance with the provisions set forth in this document

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- Be participating in an officially sanctioned AMC trail work activity
 - Act in accordance with any volunteer service agreement they have signed with any land unit they work on

If a land unit does not accept any of the above listed trainings, then the sawyer must hold a chainsaw training certification recognized by the land unit.

Anyone may submit the curriculum of a different chainsaw training program to the Inter-Chapter Trail Committee Chair and AMC Director of Trails for approval as a reciprocal training to meet the AMC Chainsaw Policy standards. Additionally, anyone can submit a proposed chainsaw training curriculum to the Inter-Chapter Trail Committee at the Annual Summit meeting for approval and inclusion in the AMC Chainsaw Policy.

All AMC trail workers involved with the use of chainsaws are expected to comply with this policy by March 1, 2017.



MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE FIRST AID KIT FOR CHAINSAW USE

- Part Number:1910
- Part Title:Occupational Safety and Health Standards
- Subpart:R
- Subpart Title:Special Industries
- Standard Number:1910.266 App A
- Title:First-aid Kits (Mandatory).
- GPO Source:e-CFR

The following list sets forth the minimally acceptable number and type of first-aid supplies for first-aid kits required under paragraph (d)(2) of the logging standard. The contents of the first-aid kit listed should be adequate for small work sites, consisting of approximately two to three employees. When larger operations or multiple operations are being conducted at the same location, additional first-aid kits should be provided at the work site or additional quantities of supplies should be included in the first-aid kits:

1. Gauze pads (at least 4 x 4 inches).
2. Two large gauze pads (at least 8 x 10 inches).
3. Box adhesive bandages (band-aids).
4. One package gauze roller bandage at least 2 inches wide.
5. Two triangular bandages.
6. Wound cleaning agent such as sealed moistened towelettes.
7. Scissors.
8. At least one blanket.
9. Tweezers.
10. Adhesive tape.
11. Latex gloves.
12. Resuscitation equipment such as resuscitation bag, airway, or pocket mask.
13. Two elastic wraps.
14. Splint.
15. Directions for requesting emergency assistance.

These standards can be found here:

https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=STANDARDS&p_id=9863

Additionally, examples of pre-made, acceptable FAKs can be found here:

- I. http://www.benmeadows.com/ben-meadows-loggers-landscapers-first-aid-kits_139851/?searchterm=logger%2bfirst%2baid
- II. http://www.forestry-suppliers.com/product_pages/Products.asp?mi=36121

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