

College of Forestry 430: Tools and Fire Extinguishers

Safety Policy & Procedure Manual
Section 400: Forest Field Safety
Effective: 01 January 2007
Revised: 24 March 2006

PURPOSE

The purpose of this section is a) To ensure that all persons involved in forest field activities are properly trained in the use of hand and portable tools, chain saws, fire extinguishers, and explosives used in any forest activities.

Background Information

The use of hand and portable tools, chain saws, fire extinguishers, and explosives used in any forest activities may be subject to the rules and regulations regulated under Oregon Administrative Rules Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Division, Division 7, subdivision C (437-007-0400). The section on explosives has been deleted from this section. Employees engaged in any work activity that includes the use of explosives should follow the OR-OSHA directives with regard to the use and regulations of explosives (OR-OSHA 437-007-0415).

Applicability

All academic, research, students, and visitors in the College of Forestry

Procedure

The following checklist for supervisor should be evaluated prior to the start of any new activity.

- All tools have been inspected for safe condition
- All wooden handles have been inspected
- All tools have been stored in vehicles properly
- All employees using chain saws have been through a training course
- Required fire extinguishers are available and have been inspected

Hand and Portable Power-Driven Tools

Supervisors are responsible for the safe condition of hand and portable power tools used in forest activities regardless of tool ownership. The supervisor must insure that all safety devices and controls must be in place and function properly. In addition, the supervisor must require all personnel to:

1. Inspect each tool before use to assure its safe condition
2. Report any unsafe tool condition
3. Remove or repair tools if the condition affects the safe operation

NOTE:

If a slick or slippery axe or hammer handle cannot be firmly gripped, the tool must not be used.

All tools must be appropriate for their use and used in a safe manner.

Wooden handles must be sound, straight-grained and tight-fitting.

Heads of shock or impact-driven and driving tools must be dressed or ground to remove any mushrooming.

When the heads of shock or impact-driven tools show a tendency to chip, they must be removed from service.

Cutting edges of tools must be sharp and properly shaped.

When tools are not being used, they must be stored in a location where they will not create a hazard.

Racks, boxes, holsters, barriers or equivalent means must be provided and used so the passengers and/or driver will not be endangered by tools, equipment or materials being transported, loaded or removed.

Chain Saws

The College of Forestry provides training in the safe use of chain saws. If you or your employees have not received this or equivalent formal training in the use of chain saws, you should not use them. Chain saw training can be arranged through the College Safety committee.

Operation of chain saws is regulated through OR-OSHA 437-007-0405

All chain saws must be inspected prior to use for cracked handles, loose bars, or other defective parts.

Fueling for chain saws must be away from open flames and never with the engine running.

Chain saws must have an operable chain brake and an automatic throttle.

Chain saws must always be started on the ground or some position with firm footing.

Never start a chain saw in the air.

Chain Saw Use

You should never use a saw:

- To cut directly overhead in a manner that would cause limbs, chunks of bark or pieces of wood to fall on the operator.
- At a distance that would require them to relinquish a safe grip on the saw.
- In a position or at a distance that could cause you to become off balance, or have insecure footing.

When carrying a chain saw beyond a short distance, the engine should be off while walking and the chain brake engaged.

Fire Extinguishers

Fire extinguishers, where required are regulated through OR-OSHA 437-007-0410.

Fire extinguishers in use must be fully charged and maintained in operable condition. They must be visually inspected monthly in addition to having an annual maintenance check. The annual maintenance check date must be recorded and this record must be retained for one year.

Explosives and Blasting Agents

(1) The storage, transportation, handling, and use of explosives and blasting agents must be in accordance with OAR Chapter 437, Division 3, Subdivision U, Blasting and The Use of Explosives.

(2) Explosives and blasting agents must be handled only by qualified, designated personnel.

(3) Explosives and blasting agents must not be transported in:

(a) The driver's compartment.

(b) Any passenger-occupied area of a machine or vehicle.

(4) Explosives must not be hauled on any vehicle while it is engaged in transporting workers.

EXCEPTION: This rule does not prohibit the driver and one qualified person from riding in a vehicle in which explosives are being hauled.