FTA - WESTERN GATE CHAPTER

General Chainsaw Crew Guidelines

1.   Safety is the uppermost concern for all chainsaw crew members. There will always be trees to walk away from. These areas should be flagged and reroutes around the tree established. All sawyers should read and adhere to the safety rules that are among the equipment with every chainsaw.

2.   The optimum number of people on a chainsaw crew is three. This means two crew members in addition to whoever is sawing. One crew member not sawing is the absolute minimum. The purpose of having three crewmen is to provide for quicker removal of any injured person or application of first aid. If chainsaw crew members are not chainsaw certified, and thus not permitted to saw, they must still be certified in First Aid and CPR.

3.   All fully certified sawyers on a crew should establish a rotation schedule to take turns chainsawing, as an aid in preventing fatigue. Non-sawing crew members can help the sawyer by clearing cut material and helping to prepare for cutting.

4.   No one shall operate a chainsaw without the required three certifications: Chainsaw Operation with at least Limbing and Bucking Endorsements, First Aid Training, and CPR Training.

5.   No one may start the engine on a chainsaw without first having donned safety chaps and safety head gear.

6.   Chainsaws are to be cleaned and saw teeth are to be sharpened at the end of each period of operation, and at a minimum of once per day. Cleaning and sharpening are best performed at the end of a work day, so that work can begin right away, the next work day.

7.   All chainsaw crew members are required to sign the FTA <u>Assumption of Risk</u> form before performing chainsaw crew work. Chainsaw crew leaders are responsible for ensuring that crew members sign the form and that these are retained as per customary procedure.

8.   Chainsaw crew leaders are responsible for recording work statistics.   This includes documenting each work day's commute hours and work hours, the names of all crew members for each work occasion, and where work is performed.

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