



Bringing Help, Hope, and Healing

Chainsaw Safety Training Manual

This Manual covers basic information for
chainsaw operators and teams.

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Disaster Relief Chainsaw Training Manual

MISSION STATEMENT:

Southern Baptist Convention Disaster Relief is a Christ-centered partnership of national, state, and associational ministries serving through the local church to bring help, healing and hope to individuals affected by disasters.

VISION STATEMENT:

Southern Baptist Convention Disaster Relief will be a well-defined, unified disaster relief response organization, demonstrating the love of Christ by providing physical and spiritual help to those affected by disasters.



INTRODUCTION

Southern Baptist Disaster Relief (SBDR) is a Christ-centered partnership of national, state, and associational ministries serving through the local church to bring help, hope and healing to individuals affected by disasters. SBDR began in Texas in 1967 and has grown to be one of the largest and most respected disaster organizations in the US and around the world.

This Chainsaw manual provides a brief overview of the safe operation of a chainsaw team. As with any equipment, the operator should seek to gain as much knowledge and skill as possible about operating a chainsaw. In addition, a chainsaw volunteer should spend time in hands-on training, practicing the procedures and skills taught in this manual. It is recommended that this training be given a minimum of eight (8) hours for classroom and practical training.

This training is required for every SBDR volunteer serving on a chainsaw team who will be using the equipment.

It is important for everyone to remember that the removal of fallen trees is the secondary goal of the chainsaw team. The primary goal is to reach the lost for Jesus Christ. Reaching out to their physical need opens the door for their spiritual need. You should conduct yourself in a manner consistent with Christ-like qualities at all times. If lead to do so, stop what you are doing to listen to those affected by the disaster and listen to his/her story. Just being there listening may be the most important thing you can do.

WHY AM I HERE?

Of all the safety equipment covered in this manual and in addition to all the years of experience you may have, the best line of defense you have against injury is your brain. **THINK** before you act...always. The saw is only a machine. **YOU** are the most valuable asset of this unit. Safety is of prime importance. Always take the time needed to do the work safely and efficiently. Plan your work.

The purpose of this course is not to teach you "how" to run a chainsaw (although that can be done). The purpose of this course is to teach you how to run a chainsaw *safely* while working with your team. Keeping you safe as well as those around you is the goal.

The Disaster Relief guidelines of the North American Mission Board (NAMB) and the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) mandate this course. No one will be allowed to run a saw for any unit of the SBDR Disaster Relief Ministry or use their personal equipment in conjunction with the SBDR without completion of this course.

During the safety presentation you will also be given basic instructions concerning the care and maintenance of the saws themselves. These steps are vital to keep the saws in top working condition, prolong the life of the saw, and promote safety.

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Before you leave for the job site, your Unit Director (Blue Hat) must have on file both the SBDR Release & Indemnity Agreement, and the Personal & Medical Form. You will not be allowed to work with the saw unit unless both of these forms are filled out completely and signed by you. The Personal & Medical Form is a confidential file and is kept in the event there is an accident and you are unable to speak for yourself.

If you take medication that may affect your reaction time, balance, judgment, or alertness, then for your safety as well as the team decline to operate a saw. If you feel overheated, fatigued, dizzy, lightheaded, or similar symptoms...**STOP!** Keep yourself hydrated and rest as needed. You are an important part of the team so stay aware of your physical condition during the work.

PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES

Be sure to keep your vaccinations up to date. Minimum should include Tetanus/Diphtheria combination as well as the Hepatitis A & B series. Keep your vaccination card with you. Also, in some instances sunscreen and insect repellent is particularly important. Be prepared if you are allergic to bee/wasp stings and be sure to let your Unit Leader (Blue Hat) as well as others on your team know of this in case of an emergency.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

God will put you and the rest of the team where He wants you. You may question the reasoning of your site location but remember that He sets up the appointments. It may not be that person you are working for at the moment; it could be that lost neighbor next door or across the street.

Be Open! We serve everyone...rich and the poor. Jesus made no distinction, and neither should we.

Be Flexible! Be prepared to make adjustments to meet existing needs.

Be Positive! Negativity drags everyone down. Be part of the solution, not the problem.

Be Skilled! Develop your skills from instructions, practice, and teamwork.

Be Focused! Be sure to attend the devotions and/or services. Keep a fresh biblical outlook. Stay prayed up!

GENERAL GUIDELINES – ALL VOLUNTEERS

- Be flexible in the assignment and always be ready to make adjustments. There is no way to adequately list all the tasks. Be prepared to meet existing needs. Remember: “It is not about production; it’s about your testimony.”
- Review “Chainsaw Property Damage Assessment” and “House Located on Lot Supplement.”
- Confirm address and have Property Owner sign the “Property Owner Request for Assistance Form” (See Appendix) if it has not already been signed.
- Be informed. Deal with information in a positive way. Never be part of misinformation.
- Be responsive in an intelligent, careful, supportive, and effective manner. Misinformation can make matters worse.

DAILY DEBRIEF AND DEVOTION

Teams will meet for devotion and debrief each day. This leads to better team cohesiveness, effectiveness, and communication. It is a benefit to you, your mental and spiritual health, as well as an encouragement to others.

UNIT AND TEAM STRUCTURE

CHAPTER 1: UNIT AND TEAM STRUCTURE

GENERAL GUIDELINES – CHAINSAW UNIT

It is recommended that the chainsaw unit be a trailer. This will allow different vehicles to pull the unit. It also reduces the insurance requirements for the unit and increases the number of drivers available.

Great effort should be made to maintain the saws at peak performance and efficiency at all times. You can help a great deal by following the procedures in this course. Much of the equipment is acquired through donations; therefore, establish good work habits by always thinking about the best and safest way to do something. Learn and be open to instruction and/or suggestions from your coworkers.

Corrections by the instructor (or Blue Hat) is not meant as chastisement but rather as a learning experience to ensure your safety, the safety of those around you, and the peak performance of the equipment. Working alone at home with your saw verses working with many other individuals in a group brings in a whole new dynamic.

God continues to bless the SBDR Ministry and those members of it. Only with His continual grace can each chainsaw team remain injury free. It is up to all of us to maintain an attitude of “Safety First” and continue to thank Him for the opportunity to serve Him by serving others through this ministry.

Before you put on the chaps, the helmet, or start your saw, pause for a moment, give thanks to Him, and seek His protection for you and your team as you work for His glory.

CHAIN OF COMMAND

INCIDENT COMMANDER – WHITE HAT

Each SBDR command site will have an Incident Commander (White Hat) who is responsible for the overall operation, function, and efficiency of the site. The Incident Commander (White Hat) will typically have an Incident Management Team (IMT) with various responsibilities. The White Hat / IMT communicates with the State DR Director and/or other agencies, as necessary. The White Hat / IMT provides overall direction to all the units of all types through the Unit Blue Hat.

UNIT LEADER – BLUE HAT

The Unit Leader shall wear the Blue Hat and is responsible to the Incident Management Team (IMT) for the actions of the unit. There shall be only one, and only one acting Blue Hat on each team. The Blue Hat receives instruction / direction from the White Hat / IMT and reports daily to the IMT.

All other team members shall wear a yellow hat regardless of his/her training or qualifications.

RECOGNIZED VOLUNTEER – YELLOW HAT

All recognized volunteers (Yellow Hat) of each unit will follow the instruction / direction of their unit Blue Hat and report directly to him/her.

SAFETY

CHAPTER 2: SAFETY

This section is intended to give the volunteer an overview of safety as it relates to chainsaw operation on an SBDR team. The following procedures are mandatory when operating a chainsaw with any SBDR Chainsaw Unit.

REMEMBER: the saw chain is traveling in excess of 80 feet per second and can cause serious injury in the blink of an eye!

CLOTHING AND GEAR

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), requirements include proper clothing and footwear; hand, leg (chaps) head, ear, and eye protection. All PPE should be inspected before each use.

NO PERSON WILL RUN ANY CHAINSAWS OR EQUIPMENT WITHOUT PROPER SAFETY GEAR!

NO EXCEPTIONS!

- **CLOTHING:** No clothing shall be loose fitting. Loose-fitting clothing could become tangled in brush and limbs as well as the saw and/or equipment. Anything that could become entangled must be secured or removed before operating a saw.
- **FOOTWEAR:** Proper footwear is extremely important. High top, steel toed boots with lug soles offer superior traction and are highly recommended. Short pants and/or tennis shoes/sneakers are not permitted when operating a saw.
- **CHAPS:** A vital part of the PPE is the chaps. Chaps are constructed of material that resists cuts from the saw teeth. The internal material chokes the saw to a stop instantly when entangled. Apron Chaps from STIHL are made from rugged, 400-denier nylon and feature the same UL® classified protection as our other chaps. Just snap them over your pants and you are ready to go. Sewn into the legs of the chaps are six layers of Engtex®, a cut-retardant material designed to clog the sprocket and stop the saw chain on a gasoline-powered chainsaw in case of accidental contact with the rotating saw chain. All cutters will wear the chainsaw chaps when cutting. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**
- **GLOVES:** Chainsaw gloves are preferred. They are constructed of a material that resists saw cuts to the hands in the event of a kick back. Gloves provide a better grip and reduce fatigue caused by extended operation.
- **HELMET:** The chainsaw helmet provides protection to the head, face, and ears. It includes a pull-down eye shield and earmuffs to provide hearing protection. All cutters will wear the chainsaw helmet when cutting.
- **PPE** must be worn whenever operating a chainsaw. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

Personal Protective Equipment: reduces the likelihood of injury by covering key areas of the body.



ORDER OF PROCEDURE

- Prayer should be your first course of action at any work site.
- No work will begin without direction by your Blue Hat. It is his/her job to ensure that permission has been granted and all paperwork is in proper order.
- Direct people with work related questions including media personnel to the Blue Hat that is responsible for your team.
- Any work that is out of the ordinary such as “leaners” or “hangers” or any unusual situations regarding the removal of the trees safely will be under the direction of the Blue Hat.
- Standing trees are seldom, if ever, cut.
- Residential and church properties are the priority. Commercial or governmental properties are not part of the work of the SBC DR ministry. Only under exceptional circumstances or arrangements of the Blue Hat and/or State Director does this type of work take place.
- Rental homes must have the property owner’s signature. The Tennant signature alone is not legally acceptable.

OPERATION SAFETY RULES

CHAPTER 3: OPERATION SAFETY RULES

GENERAL

- Understand basic operation of a chainsaw from either the owner’s manual, the training of your instructor, or both.
- Do not operate a chainsaw when you are tired or under the influence of any medications, alcohol, or drugs.
- Use a chainsaw for wood cutting only. Do not use it on things for which it is not intended, such as cutting plastic, masonry, siding, etc.
- Only well-trained volunteers should operate a chainsaw. Never allow anyone under the age of 18 to operate a chainsaw on a SBDR team.
- Do not operate a chainsaw from a ladder unless trained and instructed to do so.
- Each saw has a safety feature called a “chain brake.” When the brake lever is pushed forward, the chain is stopped. Pull the lever back and it is released. Only saws with a properly working chain brake will be used. With this feature, a “2 step” rule has been mandated. If the saw operator is required to take more than two steps, the chain brake is to be engaged. Your best safety feature is your brain....use it! If you have brush, rocks, debris, ditch, etc. under your feet, apply the chain brake before moving.

WORK AREA

- When carrying a saw to/from a work area, make sure the saw is off, with the chain break engaged. Carry holding the top handle with the bar facing the rear (never carry using the chain brake/hand guard).
- Before cutting, make sure you have a clear work area, secure footing, and a planned retreat path from falling/rolling trees. The safest escape route is a 45-degree angle to the rear.
- Inspect the tree and the area carefully before cutting. Make sure there are no dead limbs or branches that may fall on you; any spring poles, or other dangers that may present themselves. Do this with your safety person to ensure thorough inspection as well as expected work procedure as a team.
- Stay alert and use common sense while operating a chainsaw.
- Keep work areas clean. Cluttered areas invite injury. This can be done by the assistance of your safety person and with the help of the brush pullers.
- Be aware of poisonous plants. Poison ivy, poison oak, and poison sumac are the most common poisonous plants in the United States.

- Keep children, animals, and bystanders away from the chainsaw. Only the chainsaw operator and safety person should be in the work area.
- If falling a tree becomes necessary, have an observer or two watch for danger. The observer(s) should be close enough to tap the chainsaw operator on the shoulder to get his/her attention (Using a stick or axe handle).
- Do not allow anyone within 10-feet of the chainsaw operator.
- Only one saw on one tree at a time. **NO EXCEPTIONS!** Unexpected limb drops, rolling, or spring back can cause severe injury.

STARTING TECHNIQUE

- The chain brake should always be engaged regardless of the starting method.
- There are only two (2) acceptable starting methods: the “ground start” method and the “between the legs” method. **You should never “drop” start or “throw” start any saw.** Most injuries happen with this method.
 - **Ground Start Method:** Place the saw on the ground ensuring that the chain is not touching any objects and chain brake is applied. Set the choke and throttle (full choke if cold; no choke if warm). Hold the front handle with your left hand with firm downward pressure so the saw cannot tilt or twist. Place your right foot in the handle of the saw; grip the pull cord firmly and give a quick, hard pull. Once the saw starts, release the trigger, and let idle. Pick up the saw with both hands, release the brake and rev the motor to warm up and check performance. Let the saw idle down, then reset the chain brake. **DO NOT** set the chain brake with throttle applied or before the chain has been able to stop or nearly stop. This causes unnecessary wear on the chain brake mechanism and shortens its usefulness.
 - **Between the Legs Method:** Make sure the area around you is clear of any objects and chain brake applied. Set the choke and throttle (full choke if cold; no choke if warm). Hold the front handle with your left hand with firm downward pressure with the saw at a slight tilt or twist. Place the rear handle between your legs, with the top of the handle pressing against the back of the right leg. Grip the pull cord firmly and give a quick, hard pull. Once the saw starts, release the trigger, and let idle. Grasp the saw with both hands, release the brake and rev the motor to warm up and check performance. Let the saw idle down, then reset the chain brake. **DO NOT** set the chain brake with throttle applied or before the chain has been able to stop or nearly stop. This causes unnecessary wear on the chain brake mechanism and shortens its usefulness.

SAFETY PERSON

The saw operator should at all times have a safety person with him/her. Always work in pairs which ensure the safety of the cutter and the team around him/her.

The safety person is a necessary part of the cutting process, and can actually speed up the work safely, while providing a link between the operator and the environment in which he is working. It is recommended that the safety person wear chaps, helmet, and gloves. Any mishap including the saw operator could put the safety person at risk of severe injury unless properly protected.

While the operator is concentrating on the cut and saw operation, he may not be aware of any hazards that develop around him. It is the responsibility of the safety person to be aware of those hazards and/or dangerous activity around the operator and warn him/her immediately. Keep a safe distance from the operator and only approach when necessary. The safety person should carry a pole, limb, or something similar that can be used to safely tap the operator to warn of any dangers, safety concerns, etc.

If you are operating the saw and you feel this tap, **STOP IMMEDIATELY.**

The operator should always know where you are and work together as a team. When safe to do so, the safety person should remove the limbs from the immediate area and pass them to the “pullers” keeping the area clean and safe for the operator. Pullers are not to be around the operator. The operator needs only to keep in mind where one person is and that is the safety person.

The safety person should make sure there is an escape route for both himself/herself and the operator. Limbs can react unexpectedly, and trunks can roll, etc. Always have an escape route clear of debris as much as possible.



Generally (not always), the safety person is the next operator, and the operator will become the safety person, a puller or take time to rest. A fresh operator is a safer operator. Rotation is encouraged every 30-45 minutes of continued work or as the operator and safety person determine. Working safely is more important than speed.

PRECAUTIONARY NOTE: Up-rooted trees have a dangerous tendency for the root ball to fall back into its hole when the trunk weight has been removed. This is a serious safety concern. An additional safety person may be necessary to watch the area of the root ball until that danger has been resolved. Do not begin the cut until both of the safety persons agree that the area is safe and clear. Southern areas are extremely prone to very wide yet very shallow root balls. When the trunks are cut, the root ball can fall with great force.



WOOD CUTTING SAFETY

CHAPTER 4: WOOD CUTTING SAFETY

REACTIVE FORCES

There are four (4) reactive forces created by the chain cutting action. Depending on the position of the bar, condition or stresses on the wood being cut, other limbs in the area, etc. can cause these reactive forces. The saw should always be at full throttle when contacting the wood being cut. Typical stance would be left foot forward, right foot back maintaining leverage and balance.

1. **PULL:** the bottom of the bar when used for cutting will tend to pull away from the operator. This can be a normal operating procedure, but also can cause this reactive force. Maintain a firm grip on the saw with your feet planted.
2. **PUSH:** The top of the bar when used for cutting will tend to push the saw into the operator. Maintain a firm grip and brace the body against the saw force with your feet well planted.
3. **ATTACK:** Attack refers to the bottom half of the bar tip, such as when starting a bore or plunge cut. It is essential that the chain be very sharp before attempting this type of cut. Only experienced cutters should attempt this cut.
4. **KICKBACK:** The upper half of the bar tip when used for cutting WILL cause the saw to kick up (kickback) towards the operator. This can be very dangerous especially if you do not maintain a firm grip on the saw and/or not paying attention to your cuts. Do not use the upper half of the bar tip.

BASIC CUTTING:

- Run the saw at full throttle before beginning your cut. Allow the saw to do the work. The weight of the saw or light pressure is enough to make an efficient cut.
- If the saw is spitting out more saw dust rather than chips; or if the cut seems to drift or curve, stop immediately this is evidence of a dull chain.
- Allow the base of the saw to rest against the wood which helps reduce or eliminate the chances of the reactive forces. You can gently rock the saw as it makes it cut downward. Keep an eye on the tip of the saw so that it does not make any contact with another limb, log, or ground.
- Stand at the side of the saw and not directly over the moving chain. If the saw were to react, break or come loose, your safest position is just to the side of the saw.
- Begin by limbing the tree first taking care not to remove any limbs that may be supporting the weight of the tree.

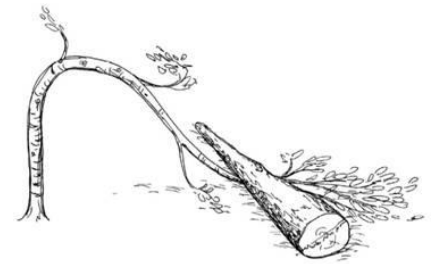
SAPLINGS AND BRUSH

Often around a tree trunk or in unimproved areas, you will find yourself cutting small diameter saplings or standing brush/bushes. Clipping these with your chainsaw should be done with great care. The tendency is to think that it is small so it should be easy to cut, but this might surprise you. If the chain takes too much bite, the result can be a sudden whip action upward towards you, or

you could be knocked off your feet resulting in a fall with a running chainsaw. If a brush cutter, loppers, or an axe is readily available, they are far better suited for this type of work.

SPRING POLE DANGER!

Of all the possible dangers you may encounter, the “spring pole” can often be the most hazardous of them all. Even if the spring pole is cut successfully, with its sudden change of position and release of tension, the tree that it is resting on it can suddenly roll in your direction. When the pole is finally severed, the direction it may go at times is impossible to predict. Keep your escape route open. It is vital to have your safety person watching this procedure closely.



Allow ample time between cuts to allow the pressure to stabilize. Watch for a twisting motion in the resulting cracks as they form. Take plenty of time with this procedure and make several notching cuts. It is common for 6 to 8 cuts or more to be made before the final severing cut can be made.

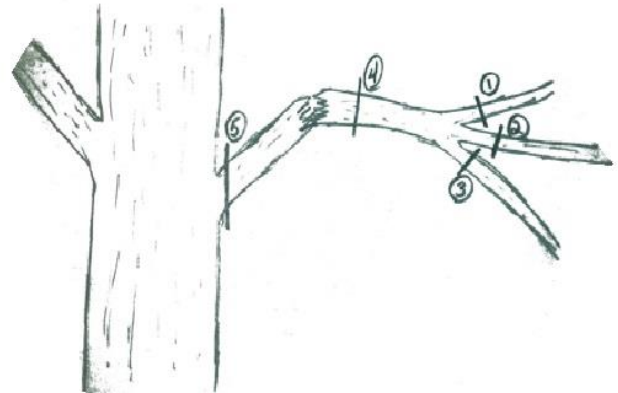
When making that final severing cut, watch your legs! All too often the top section with the tree on it will try to snap downward with a tremendous force. At the same time, the rooted section can fly up toward your face resulting in a serious blow to your head or upper body.

At no time should an undercut be made as it will guarantee a pinched chain (and a lot of “I told you so’s!”).

THE POLE SAW

The pole saw or trimming saw is a valuable tool to have when cleaning up after a storm. This saw can cut limbs as high as 15 feet while standing on the ground. However, the usage of the pole saw presents a whole new set of risks and dangers for the operator as well as those nearby.

The safety person’s roll increases in importance with the use of the pole saw. The safety person can aid in the controlled starting and support of the pole saw reducing fatigue on the operator. Due to the shaft length, extension and retraction of the telescoping head, the assistance of the safety person is imperative. The safety person and operator must work in sync to safely operate a pole saw.

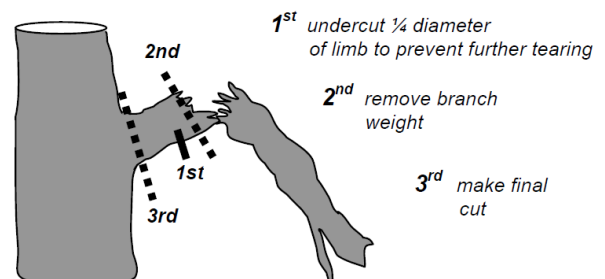
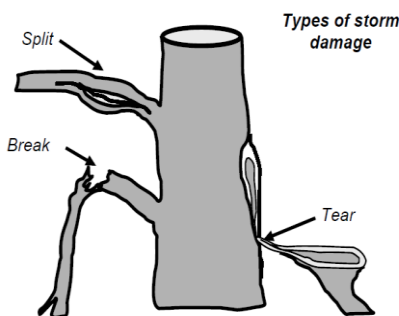


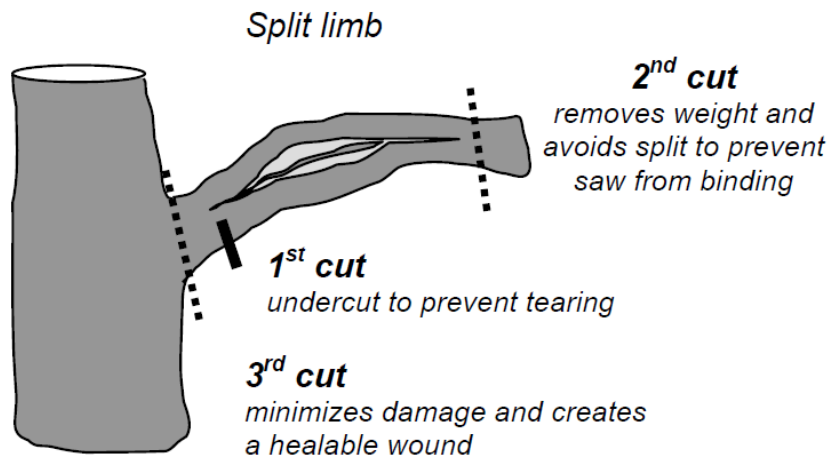
As the pole saw is extended, and the limbs get higher, the operator is forced to stand increasingly closer to the “drop zone” where the limbs are likely to fall. As this happens, the shower of chips from the cutting action tends to fall on the operator hampering a clear view and presenting an eye contamination problem. You will especially appreciate your safety glasses and face shield during this operation.

Common sense is your best safeguard against injury. The safety person will be able to see things from a different perspective and vantage point. Do NOT hesitate to stop cutting if you feel the “tap” on your shoulder. Rely on your safety person.

Cutting broken limbs with the pole saw is not as simple as it may seem. It is difficult to place the bar in the exact spot you want it to go. A common mistake is to make the cut at the break itself. This generally ends up with a pinched chain.

The diagram below shows some of the types of storm damage you may encounter.





USING THE WEDGE

On cuts where it is obvious that the tree trunk or limb will close up behind the cut and pinch the chain, a fiberglass wedge should be inserted behind the saw cut as soon as possible while keeping away from the chain. It may be possible to cut completely through the work with this method. Keep in mind that the depth of the cut is actually regulated by the position of the wood and proximity of the ground.

The wedge may also be used to force a fall in a direction that is not favorable to the natural lean of a standing tree. Use careful judgment when performing this task.

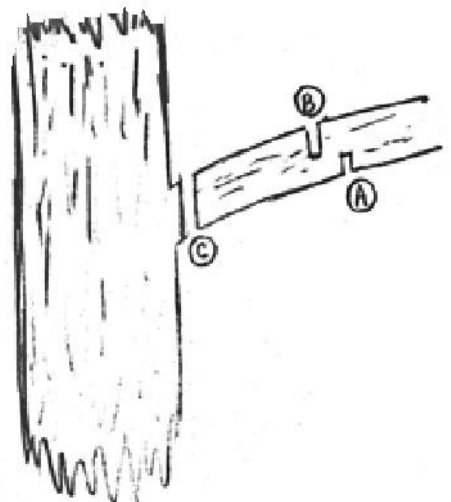


CONTROLLED LIMB DROP

Any large tree that is lying on the ground will undoubtedly have a few large limbs that are positioned above the trunk. Many of these can be exceptionally large and equally as heavy. They may also be too high for your pole saw to be effective. In that case, your only option is to cut the limb near the trunk.

One approach is to do an undercut then go to a downward cut directly above the first. This can often result in a stuck saw with the majority of the weight of the limb holding it fast.

To prevent this, make your undercut as before, but instead of making the next cut directly over the first, set the top cut back about one inch to 1 1/2 inches past the first cut. This causes the weight of the limb to work with you by “breaking” the fibers of the wood as opposed to “tearing” them as you cut. As your chain reaches closer to the level of the undercut, you will hear the limb “pop” and “crack” as opposed to the “groan” of tearing fibers. When the limb does separate from the trunk, it will fall clean and not have the upper end lying on the ground requiring follow-up cuts that tend to pinch your chain.



OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Please leave your personal saws at home. It is unlikely to have any spare parts to keep them up and running, and there is no need of putting extra hours on your personal equipment. The unit is not responsible for repairing any damage that may be encountered on personal equipment.

While operating a chainsaw, remember that you are not at home in your wood lot with no one else around. Keep in mind the safety of everyone working around you.

Remember to set the chain brake after the chainsaw has slowed to a stop. Engaging the brake with the chain running will damage the mechanism.

Remember to release the brake before you start your cut! The brake is used while the saw is at idle and while you are moving (2-step rule).

There is no advantage to “sawing” the saw through your cut. Let the saw work for you rather than the saw work you. The saws are designed to work best at full throttle using its own weight regulating the down feed. This approach keeps the chain cooler and the edge to last longer. The exceptions being an upward cut or a plunge cut.

If you find your saw cutting a curved line, smoke coming from the chain, or the cutting speed is noticeably slower...**STOP!** Take the saw to the trailer for inspection. The chain may be dull, or the oiler has stopped pumping oil on the chain. Continued use will cause the chain to overheat and possibly bind the bar. This shortens the life of both the chain and the bar.

Keep a close watch on the chain oil level and look for traces of oil on the bar and/or splatter lines in front of the chain from flying oil. If it is not present, stop and check the oil level immediately and ensure that the oiler is working properly. Also check the chain clearance. It should be noted that during cold weather, the chain does not behave as it does in warmer temperatures. The “trace” may not be observed as readily at the bar tip. The bar oil becomes very thick and difficult to tell if the oiler is working properly. It is recommended that cold weather bar oil be used during colder temperatures.

When needing to refill the fuel and oil reservoirs, wipe the area around the reservoir caps to ensure that dirt, dust, and chips do not contaminate the fuel/oil. This can cause damage to the saw and require servicing.

Avoid “on site” maintenance. Take the saw to the trailer if there is a problem with the saw; the primary exception being chain tension, which must be carefully monitored.

If the need arises to fell a tree, or cut off a broken trunk, it is **STRONGLY** advised to leave the ground level cut until all the other cutting is completed. The felling cut should be made at a comfortable height between the knees and the waist. This is easier on you physically and provides a better stance for a quick escape if needed. The ground level cut can prove to be very hard on the chains cutting edge. Often there is dirt, sand, rocks, gravel, metal, and other debris that can be embedded in the trunk base. Avoid or use extreme caution when cutting at ground level.

One of the most common errors is cutting too close to the ground. Take time to place the 4-inch limb under the limb or trunk being cut. A log roller works well in this situation. Your safety person can be of assistance and work with you through this process. Working together makes this task much easier, safer, and effective for man and saw.

On trunks or large limbs, make a series of crosscuts down its length to manageable size. Make these cuts about $\frac{3}{4}$ the way through the log. Once the series of cuts are made, roll the log over and finish each cut. You can use a log roller if available, or old-fashioned manpower. If the cutter is assisting rolling the log, place the saw on the ground in a safe area before rolling the log. **NEVER** let the running chain contact the ground.

REMEMBER: ONE TREE; ONE SAW! No exceptions. If in doubt, stop and check in with your Blue Hat.

Dangers

There are a number of dangers to watch out for during the recovery process that is beyond the obvious realm of working with a chainsaw:

- Poison ivy, oak, or sumac.
- Bees and wasps
- Fire ants and other insects
- Snakes and other creepy crawlers
- Bushes or trees with thorns
- Ticks and chiggers
- Nails and other debris

Working in Ice and Snow

Working in extreme cold conditions after an ice storm can be very hazardous. Slipping on ice and/or snow has led to injuries and even death. Carrying a running chainsaw increases the danger when working in slippery conditions.

If you have strap on ice cleats for your boots, use them. However, do not let them give you a false sense of security as the risk of slipping is still very high. Always make sure of your footing, especially when cutting. Remember too, that oil and water (and ice) do not mix. Oil on ice will be doubly slippery. In very cold conditions, the wood itself that you are cutting will be frozen and hard. Be

very conscious of the lubrication between the bar and chain and check it often. The oil in the saw will become very thick and not flow as freely as in warmer conditions.

Snow and ice can hide many of the typical dangers and debris. The snow can hide rocks, pipes, wires, and other objects that can damage a chain. Work with your safety person as you progress through the cutting process to keep the area clean and safe.

Over exertion is a common problem in colder temperatures. Take your time and be deliberate in your actions without being in a hurry. This is not a race. Keep in mind the clothing you wear as well. It is best to layer your clothing and try to keep your body temperature under control. If you dress too warmly, you can begin to sweat under your clothes, and then you will begin to get cold very quickly. Pace yourself and listen to your body. If you begin to get cold, stop and get warm. If you get winded and/or lightheaded, stop make sure you are okay. Again, pace yourself and remember that your unit needs you healthy. Choose the lightest saw that will do the job. Bucking a 24 inch saw for a 6-inch limb is wasted energy that is needed to keep you warm.

Very often damage to trees because of ice/snow will cause limbs to break. Many will be severed and fall to the ground and others will break without severing. These are what we call "hangers." Some of these hangers are barely holding to the rest of the tree while others are still well attached but broken and dead. Your Blue Hat will determine the course of action if there is any. Many times, without the aid of a bucket truck, much of the damage cannot be done.

Final Clean-Up

Do your best to leave your work area clean and neat as possible. Set up turned over flowerpots; blow/sweep the driveway and sidewalks clean; rake up and dispose of leaves/twigs that have accumulated because of the storm. Simple things like this, treating their property as if it were your own, will leave a homeowner pleased, encouraged and with a renewed spirit of hope after a devastating event.

Remember first of all Who we are serving. Paul reminds us in **1 Corinthians 10:31**, "**Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.**" And the writer of Ecclesiastes also reminds us, "**Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might;**" (**Ecclesiastes 9:10**).

At the conclusion of the job and you are returning your equipment to the trailer, make sure you put everything back in its proper place. Do not assume someone will do it for you. Take responsibility and remember we are God's stewards over His equipment. Take care of it for His glory. Whatever you have taken from the unit, (chaps, helmet, gloves, saws, tools, chains, etc.), make sure it is returned and in its proper place.

Make sure you pick up your trash, water bottles, etc. Do not throw your trash, water bottles, etc. into the debris pile. Foliage debris is different and will be handled different than trash. Also, it is a poor gesture to leave our trash behind for the homeowner to deal with. Again, take responsibility and clean up your own mess. There will be a trash receptacle back at the command center.

Assist, if needed in making sure the unit is clean and ready for the next day's work and/or secured for the trip home. Be flexible, be flexible, be flexible. And be safe!

Contributions

At times homeowners may wish to contribute to the work of the unit. We **DO NOT** accept donations at the work site. Refer them to the Blue Hat to oversee. Some people will offer, others will insist.

Ministry Matters

If someone asks, "*What does this cost?;*" "*How much do you charge?;*" "*How much can I pay you?;*" or something similar, simply respond by saying, "***It's already been paid for!***" Many will not understand what you mean and this will be an opportunity to share the gospel. Remember, our work is never about cleaning up the debris. Our work is to find opportunity to share the love and gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. The storm damage gives us that opportunity.

When someone is "connecting" with the homeowner, leave them alone. They are building a relationship and trust with that person. Do not barge in on their conversation. Respect their time. It is quite common for each work site that a different person from your team will connect with each homeowner. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide that. Listen to their story and pray with them.

Give them a Bible, signed by your team, and pray together. Occasionally a homeowner will refuse to pray with you but pray anyway. Almost everyone will be gracious and will accept the Bible and the prayer.

Remember, we are there to bring **HELP, HOPE, and HEALING!**

"And if you give even a cup of cold water to one of the least of my followers, you will surely be rewarded." (**Mark 9:41**)

CHAIN SAW – PROPERTY OWNER REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEER ASSISTANCE

Job #	
Job Priority	1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/>
Assessor	
Phone #	

Property Owner Name:		Date:
Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
Home #:	Cell #:	Work #:

Do you have insurance? **Yes No** Will owner be present? **Yes No** If no, can work be done? **Yes No**

Type of structure: _____ Type of roof: _____

Job Description _____

Special Instructions: _____

RELEASE: (Must be signed before any work can begin)

I, _____ hereby release from liability and agree to hold harmless the volunteers of the Southern Baptist Convention Disaster Relief Volunteers or their representatives, agents, and/or employees harmless for any damage or injury that may occur on my property, including personal property or to my person, which may occur during the cleanup operation. I further understand and agree that there is no warranty, implied, written, or oral, for any work performed on my property by said volunteers. If asbestos is found all work will cease by KYDR Volunteers. I understand that the Southern Baptist Disaster Relief is a volunteer organization that has limited volunteers, limited financial and material resources, and makes no guarantee that said service will be provided. Additionally, I further understand that **THIS IS NOT A CONTRACT TO PROVIDE SERVICES.** _____ **Initials**

Property Owners Signature _____ **Date** _____

Upon Completion of Job:	
Unit Assigned _____	Date Completed _____
[] Work Completed [] Work Incomplete (describe what remains) _____	
Unit Leader (Blue Hat) Signature _____	
Names of Volunteers who worked job:	

Damage Assessment Checklist – Chainsaw

- **PRIORITY 1** – DAMAGE IS AFFECTING THE NORMAL FUNCTION OF THE HOME AND NEEDS REMOVED RIGHT AWAY.
- **PRIORITY 2** – DAMAGE IS NOT AFFECTING THE NORMAL FUNCTION OF THE HOME BUT NEEDS REMOVED SOON.
- **PRIORITY 3** – DAMAGE IS PRESENT, NEEDS REMOVED, BUT NOT URGENT.
- **DECLINED JOB**

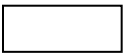





Team Skills Required	<input type="checkbox"/> Ground only	<input type="checkbox"/> Climbers	<input type="checkbox"/> Roof / Ladders	<input type="checkbox"/> Rigging
Heavy Equipment Needed	<input type="checkbox"/> Skid Steer	<input type="checkbox"/> Man Lift	<input type="checkbox"/> Tractor	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
Hazards/Concerns	<input type="checkbox"/> Electrical	<input type="checkbox"/> Sewage	<input type="checkbox"/> Animals	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

WORK DESCRIPTION		
<input type="checkbox"/> Downed trees preventing power to the home	<input type="checkbox"/> Trees/limbs blocking entrance to driveway or home	
<input type="checkbox"/> Tree(s) on House	<input type="checkbox"/> Roof Punctured	<input type="checkbox"/> Tarping Needed
<input type="checkbox"/> Damaged Trees that should be taken down	#	Max Diameter:
<input type="checkbox"/> Tree/Limbs near house, preventing necessary repairs	#	Max Diameter:
<input type="checkbox"/> Trees/Limbs on out buildings	#	Max Diameter:
<input type="checkbox"/> Large trees in yard, cut up for removal	#	Max Diameter:
<input type="checkbox"/> Trees/Limbs in front yard, cut up for removal	#	Max Diameter:
<input type="checkbox"/> Trees/Limbs in back/side yard, cut up for removal	#	Max Diameter:
<input type="checkbox"/> Hangers – unable to access from ground	#	Max Diameter:

Additional comments from Assessor:

House located on lot:

Locate & mark the following using these symbols:

-  Home/Building
-  Gas Line/Meter
-  Well/Water Meter
-  Location of Brush/Debris
- 
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- 