Wildland Fire Chainsaws Training Annual Refresher

Suggested Annually 2-4 Hours

Description
This refresher is intended to provide an annual update and review related to risk management, policy, and operations for chainsaw operators. This document is provided as guidance for local unit use and training and may or may not be required by individual agencies. Refer to your agency policy for specific requirements. No NWCG course certificate will be generated.

Core Topics
• Discuss local emergency procedures.
• Discuss risk-based decision making.
• Policy Review
• Accident reporting and Lessons Learned review
• Review safe chainsaw operations as described in the PMS-212.
• Demonstrate and discuss chainsaw maintenance and troubleshooting techniques.

Target Group
Current qualified chainsaw operators (FAL1, FAL2, and FAL3)

Prerequisite Qualifications and Training
Successful completion of S-212

Delivery
This refresher is intended for classroom delivery. However, if local factors and time permit, a field exercise can be substituted or added on.

Recommended Time
2-4 Hours

Course Level
Local

Minimum Instructor Qualifications
Lead instructors should be qualified as FAL1 or FAL2.

Recommended Resources
• NWCG Standards for Wildland Fire Chainsaw Operations, PMS 212
• Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center
• RT-130, Wildland Fire Safety Training Annual Refresher (WFSTAR)
• Agency-specific policy
Suggested Elements

Safety and Planning

• Emergency Procedures
  o Ensure fallers have current CPR and First Aid certification.
  o Communication protocols and use of the medical incident report
  o Local medical incident response plan review
  o Necessary medical equipment and qualifications

• Risk Management
  o Review and discuss current Job Hazard Analysis (JHA) or Risk Assessment(s) for chainsaw operations on your local unit.
  o Required PPE
  o Proper tools for the job
  o Review and discuss changes in chainsaw operational complexity, including the PMS 212 Complexity Fade Chart.
  o Cutting/work area control during all operations (emphasize recent swamper cuts. Provide links to RLS/LL/FLA related to swamper cuts)
  o Fuel geyser awareness
  o Additional toolbox topics available at the Hazard Tree and Tree Felling Subcommittee website. [https://www.nwcg.gov/tags/httfs](https://www.nwcg.gov/tags/httfs)

• Review current agency policy/guidance and identify any changes to chainsaw operation and certification policies from the previous year.

• Accident Reporting and Reviews
  o Discuss accident reporting mechanisms and requirements, including agency injury reporting and the SAFENET process.
  o Review and discuss any Rapid Lesson Sharing, Facilitated Learning Analysis, Serious Accident Reports related to chain saw operations.

Operations

• Proper chainsaw starting and operating techniques related to:
  o Limbing
  o Bucking
  o Brushing
  o Felling
  o Swamping

• Maintenance and troubleshooting:
  o Kits and tools
  o Demonstrate proper troubleshooting and maintenance procedures.

Flexibility should be encouraged within these elements to meet local needs. This refresher is designed to facilitate discussion and information sharing based on the core topics. It is not necessary that students demonstrate field chainsaw operations as the discussion and much of the demonstration could be achieved in a classroom setting. Suggested elements can be tailored to meet local needs.