

# Southern Baptist



## Chain Saw Manual

North American Mission Board, SBC

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## **Chain Saw Orientation**

(minimum eight hours classroom and practical training)

### **General**

- Be flexible in the assignment and ready to make adjustments. There is no way to adequately list all tasks. Teams should be prepared to meet existing needs.
- Confirm address and have owner sign the Property Owner Job Order Approval (see Appendix Two).
- Be informed. Deal with information in a positive way. Never be part of misinformation.
- Be responsive in an intelligent, careful, supportive and effective manner. Mistakes by volunteers can make matters worse.

### **Continue to Develop Your Skills**

- First aid course
- CPR course
- Disaster awareness emphasis: church, association
- Practice sessions: tools and power equipment

### **Unit Director**

The unit director should wear the Blue Cap and is responsible to the operation officer for the actions of the unit.

### **Chain Saw Unit**

It is recommended that the chain saw 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.

### **Daily Debrief and Devotion**

Morning devotion

Informal evening debrief

### **Websites of Interest**

[www.stihlusa.com](http://www.stihlusa.com)

[www.stihl.de/safety\\_manuals/usa](http://www.stihl.de/safety_manuals/usa)

[www.husqvarna.com](http://www.husqvarna.com)

[www.oregonchain.com](http://www.oregonchain.com)

[www.ext.nodak.edu/extpubs/agency/safety/ae1025w.htm](http://www.ext.nodak.edu/extpubs/agency/safety/ae1025w.htm)

## Chain Saw Safety Policy – Clothing and Gear

Safety gear requirements include hand, head, ear, and eye protection and proper clothing with chaps.

Clothing must not be loose fitting. Loose-fitting clothing could become tangled in brush and limbs as well as the saw. Anything that could become entangled must be secured before operating a saw. Proper footwear is also important. High top boots with lug soles offer superior traction.

On each clean-up/recovery unit there must be safety gear for each person operating a chain saw. These items include helmets with eye and ear protection, gloves, and chaps. **Safety gear must be worn whenever you are operating a chain saw.**

A key part of the safety gear is the **chaps**. Chaps are constructed of material that resists cuts from the saw teeth. The internal material chokes the saw to a stop when entangled.

Chain saw gloves are preferred. They are constructed of a material which 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.

The chain saw helmet provides protection to the head. It includes a pull-down eye shield and ear covers to reduce noise.

## Chain Saw Operation Safety Rules

What is safety? Being careful? A set of rules? An attitude? Safety is all of these.

**Remember the saw blade is traveling in excess of 80 feet per second. Just a touch can result in serious injury in as little as a split second.**

### Before Operating a Chain Saw

1. Read and understand the owner's manual before operating a chain saw.
2. Watch what you are doing. Use common sense. Do not operate a chain saw when you are tired.
3. Use a chain saw for cutting wood only. Do not use it on things for which it is not intended, such as cutting plastic, masonry, etc.
4. Only well-instructed adults should operate a chain saw. Never allow children to operate one.
5. Do not operate a chain saw:
  - While under the influence of alcohol, medication or drugs
  - Within 10 feet of highly flammable liquids or gases
  - While in a hurry
  - While in tree or on a ladder unless trained to do so
6. Wear snug-fitting clothes when operating a chain saw. Do not wear loose clothing or jewelry. They can get caught in the moving saw chain.
7. Wear the following safety gear when operating a chain saw:
  - Heavy-duty gloves
  - Heavy-duty boots
  - Eye protection such as safety glasses, goggles or face screen
  - Safety hard hat
  - Ear protectors
  - Hair covering to contain long hair
  - Face or dust mask (if working in dusty areas)
  - Chaps
8. Before cutting always provide the following:
  - Clear work area
  - Secure footing
  - Planned retreat path from falling tree (safest route is a 45-degree angle to the rear)

9. Inspect the tree carefully before cutting it down. Make sure there are no dead limbs or branches that may fall on you.

### **During Chain Saw Operation**

1. Do not allow anyone within **six feet** of the chain saw operator.
2. Stay alert. Use common sense while operating a chain saw.
3. Keep work areas clean. Cluttered areas invite injury.
4. Be aware of local poisonous plants. Poison ivy, poison oak, and poison sumac are the most common poisonous plants in the United States.
5. Keep children, animals, and bystanders away from the chain saw. Only chain saw users should be in the work area.
6. Do not cut down a tree unless you are trained or have expert help.
7. If two or more people perform felling operations at the same time, provide plenty of distance between operations. Provide a distance of at least twice the height of the tree being felled.
8. Grip the chain saw firmly with both hands. Never operate a chain saw with one hand. Never use the hand guard as a handle.
9. Keep fingers off the trigger until ready to make a cut.
10. Before starting the chain saw, make sure the chain is not touching anything.
11. To start a chain saw, set it on the ground, place your foot on the handle, and pull the start cord. Don't start a chain saw while holding it with one hand.
12. Keep all parts of your body away from the chain when the chain saw is running.
13. Do not force the chain saw while cutting. Apply light pressure. It will do the job more safely and effectively if it is used at the rate for which it was designed.
14. Cut small brush and saplings with extreme care. Slender material may catch in the chain and be whipped toward you. This could also pull you off balance.
15. When cutting limbs or tree trunks that are under tension, use extreme caution. Be alert for wood springing back. When wood tension is released, limbs could spring back and strike the operator, causing severe injury or death.
16. Try to keep the bar out of dirt and sand.

17. To carry the chain saw from one place to another:
  - Turn the saw off.
  - Hold the front handle (never use hand guard as a handle).
  - Engage the chain break.
18. Never put the chain saw over your head.
19. Stand at the side of the saw, not behind it, and keep your feet well-braced and body balanced.
20. Run the engine at full throttle.
21. When felling a tree, have an observer watch for danger.
22. Have wedges and a sledge hammer close by to unpinch a saw.
23. Should the saw become pinched, turn the saw off before trying to remove it from the tree.

## **Chain Saw Maintenance**

The performance of your saw can make the difference between a good day and a bad day in the field. There is nothing more frustrating, than a saw that does not operate properly once you are in the field and ready to go to work. Maintenance is very important.

Maintenance should be performed at the unit or preferably in a shop where a vise and adequate space are available. The field is not the appropriate place to do maintenance unless absolutely necessary. If maintenance must be performed in the field, find a clear area and spread a tarp on the ground so smaller parts will not get lost.

### **Maintenance Procedures**

1. Do a visual inspection of the complete saw.
2. Clean the air filter.
3. Inspect the sparkplug.
4. Check the starter cord.
5. Check the flywheel.
6. Inspect the clutch drum and drive socket.
7. Clean the chain and bar.
8. Inspect the chain and sharpen and properly tighten it as needed.

## Appendix One

### Chain Saw Equipment List

- \_\_\_\_\_ Hope in Crisis tracts
- \_\_\_\_\_ Equipment owners manual
- \_\_\_\_\_ Fire extinguisher
- \_\_\_\_\_ First aid kit
- \_\_\_\_\_ Five-gallon gas can
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2.5-gallon can
- \_\_\_\_\_ two-cycle oil (one case)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Bar oil (one gallon)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Tool box with basic tools
- \_\_\_\_\_ Wrecking bars (crow/pry)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Bolt cutters
- \_\_\_\_\_ (2) Axes
- \_\_\_\_\_ Shovels (pointed and square)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Hack saws (extra blades)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (4) Chain saws - minimum 16" bar
- \_\_\_\_\_ Spare bar and chain
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sharpener
- \_\_\_\_\_ Chain saw safety equipment (chaps, ear/eye protection, work gloves and safety helmet)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (2) Wheelbarrows
- \_\_\_\_\_ Hand trucks with large tires
- \_\_\_\_\_ (2) Water coolers
- \_\_\_\_\_ Rope
- \_\_\_\_\_ Loping shears
- \_\_\_\_\_ Hand saw (bow saw)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Pole saw (manual or power)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (4) 18-inch traffic safety cones
- \_\_\_\_\_ Rakes
- \_\_\_\_\_ Pitch fork
- \_\_\_\_\_ Come-a-long (two-ton)

#### **Optional**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Air compression with hose
- \_\_\_\_\_ Pressure washer with water hose (1500 psi)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Generator (minimum 3500 watts)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Floodlights with extension cords
- \_\_\_\_\_ Extension ladder
- \_\_\_\_\_ Wet/dry vacuum



**Appendix Two**

**Southern Baptist Disaster Relief  
Property Owner Job Order Approval**

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Priority: 1 2 3 (Highest—1)

Property Owner's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Insurance Carrier \_\_\_\_\_

Insurance Address \_\_\_\_\_

Job Description \_\_\_\_\_

Special Instructions \_\_\_\_\_

**Release**

I hold the assigned volunteers of Southern Baptist Disaster Relief, or their representatives, agents, and/or employees harmless for any damage or injury that may occur on my property, including personal property, during the clean-up operations. Furthermore, there is no warranty or guarantee given or implied for the work done by volunteers.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Property Owner

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

(Sign when job is complete)

Unit Director (or Blue Cap)

**All volunteers sign off on back after the work site is completed.**