

HANDTOOL USAGE ON PROJECTS

1758

(November 1991)

Remove from service any tools having mushroomed heads, split or defective handles, worn parts, or other defects that impair their strength or render them unsafe for use. Do not reissue these tools until repairs have been made.

Do not leave unnecessary tools on scaffolds, ladders, or overhead levels. When working overhead on scaffolds, ladders, or on other surfaces, use positive methods to prevent tools from falling.

HANDTOOL REFERENCES

1758.1

(November 1991)

In order to conduct the proper safety training for handtool use, supervisors should be familiar with the information contained in the following references on handtool safety from the Health and Safety Code Handbook, USFS:

- Cutting Tools (Chapter 5-4).
- Power Equipment Safety (Chapter 5-11).
- Power-Operated Hand Tools (Chapter 5-11).
- Tool Operator Rules (Chapter 5-11B).
- Air Equipment & Pneumatic Tools (Chapter 5-12).
- Powder-Actuated Tool Certificate. (No one may operate a powder-actuated tool without training as prescribed by the manufacturer and without carrying a valid operator's card.)
- Portable Saws (Chapter 5-11C).
- Woodworking Equipment (Chapter 5-14).
- Circular Table Saws (Chapter 5-11A).
- Radial Arm Saws (Chapter 5-14B).
- Band Saws (Chapter 5-14C).

- Jointers (Chapter 5-14D).
- Drills (Chapter 5-15).
- Grinders (Chapter 5-16).

CHAIN SAWS

1758.2

(November 1991)

To ensure chain saw safety, supervisors should:

- Be familiar with and follow the safety requirements in Section 6283, Portable Chain Saw Operations, of CCR, Title 8, Logging and Sawmill Safety Orders.
- Train new operators in chain saw use, operation, and maintenance. Never let trainees operate saws without constant, direct supervision until they have demonstrated the ability to handle the saw independently and proficiently.
- Be sure personnel are in good physical condition before allowing them to operate a chain saw. A sawyer should not work alone.
- Conform to unit policies regarding the carrying of fire extinguishers and shovels.

Do not use chain saws in unventilated areas. Store gasoline in approved safety cans equipped with "flash back screens," vents, and pouring spouts. Never carry gasoline in a backpack; carry it by hand. Never use glass containers. Stop equipment before refueling and for cleaning, adjustment, and repairs.

Stop the saw before carrying it. Point the bar forward when going downhill and carry the saw at the side. Point the bar to the rear when going uphill and carry the saw at the side. Pack and guard the bar when shouldering the saw.

PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

1758.2.1

(November 1991)

During chain saw operations, sawyers and helpers shall wear:

- Hard hats.
- Eye and face protection.

- Gloves.
- Hearing protection.

In addition to the protective equipment above, chain saw operators must also wear protective chaps.

Personal clothing should consist of durable pants (for non-firefighting jobs) and sturdy boots equipped with slip-resistant soles.

Equip chain saws with CAL FIRE approved spark arresters. Consider purchasing chain saws that muffle noise. Equip saws with bow bars with top and bottom chain guards with stingers. New saws must have a "chain brake" feature to provide a degree of kickback protection.

REFUELING

1758.2.2

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Designate an area on mineral soil for storing fuel and oil.

Stop the saw when checking fuel or bar oil levels and when refueling. Outdoors, refuel at least 50 feet from persons smoking or from other potential sources of ignition.

When refueling, make sure that the saw is cool, fill the tank on bare ground or other noncombustible surface, and wipe spilled fuel off the saw. Never start the saw within 10 feet of the fueling area.

OTHER EQUIPMENT REFERENCES

1758.3

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The following are references for other equipment from the Health and Safety Code Handbook, USFS:

- Power Lawn Mowers (Chapter 6-11B).
- Pruning & Mowing Safety (Chapter 6-11B).
- Ladders (Chapter 5-32).
- Welding and Cutting (Chapter 3-35).
- Respiratory Protective Equipment (Chapters 3-36, 8-1D).

[\(see next section\)](#)

[\(see HB Table of Contents\)](#)

[\(see Forms or Forms Samples\)](#)