

**Forest Service Manual
National Headquarters - Washington Office
Washington, DC**

**Forest Service Manual 2300 – Recreation, Wilderness, And Related Resource Management
Chapter 2350 - Trail, River, and Similar Recreation Opportunities**

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Responsible Staff:

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Digest: Following is an explanation of the changes throughout the directive by section.

Section 2358.03: Technical correction: adds reference FSH 1509.11, section 91.2 (para. 5).

Effective March 6, 2023: Revisions as listed below to chapter 2350, section 2358:

Section 2358: Updates to 508 compliant format.

Incorporates, with changes, Interim Directive (ID) ID-2300-2021-1.

Clarifies the terms “saw” and “Saw Program” in reference to chain saws, crosscut saws, and handsaws used for cutting material larger than 5 inches DBH unless specified otherwise.

Section 2358.03: Revises cooperator organization program requirements, including exemption of other federal, state, tribal and local government agencies from this policy. Implements new process to approve cooperator organizations and volunteer partner groups training and evaluation programs as well for cooperator organizations to certify National Sawyer Certification cards.

Section 2358.04: Clarifies the roles and responsibilities of Line Officers and Saw Program Managers in administration of the Saw Program. Revises the levels of delegation of authority to certify National Sawyer Certification cards. Provides additional assistance in program management at the regional level and recommends the designation of a Deputy Regional Saw Program Manager and Regional Program Instructor(s) (RPI) position. These would be collateral duty positions.

Section 2358.06: Clarifies training and evaluation requirements. Allows for select B level sawyers to train and evaluate up to the A level. Allows for C Sawyer Evaluator bucking only designations. This section's subsections replace 2358.1 and 2.

Section 2358.06c: Updates authority to certify National Sawyer Certification card.

Section 2358.06e: Revises Exhibit 01 on training, knowledge, and skill requirements at each sawyer qualification level. Replaces 2358.1 Exhibit 02.

Section 2358.07: Includes direction on PPE and safety requirements. Direction formerly part of Health and Safety Handbook FSH 6709.11, removed as part of handbook updates in 2018.

Effective March 31, 2022, Revisions as listed below to Chapter 50:

Section 2353.05: Adds new definitions for "bicycle," "electric bicycle (e-bike)," "Class 1 e-bike," "Class 2 e-bike," and "Class 3 e-bike."

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2358 – Saw Program

The direction within this section applies to all activities on National Forest System (NFS) lands where individuals will be using saws. This direction does not apply to other federal, state, tribal, or local government agencies, contractors, or those working under interagency fire management cooperative agreements. The Forest Service Saw Program provides direction on qualification requirements, as well as training, evaluation, and certification standards for Forest Service employees, as well as volunteers, volunteer partner groups and cooperator organizations using saws under an agreement on NFS lands. It also covers requirements for training consultants.

The primary purpose of the United States Forest Service (USFS) Saw Program is to address sawyer safety and the safety of those in the vicinity of saw operations by assuring the sawyer has met training requirements, has successfully completed a field proficiency evaluation, and has a current Sawyer Certification Card.

This section covers chain saws (including electric/battery chainsaws) and crosscut saws. In addition, it covers handsaws used for cutting material larger than 5 inches DBH.

For the purposes of this directive, the terms “saw” and “Saw Program” refers to chain saws, crosscut saws, and handsaws used for cutting material larger than 5 inches DBH unless specified otherwise.

2358.01 – Authority

This section cites the legally binding instruments which authorize and/or constrain the policy, standards, guidelines, or procedures being issued as Agency direction.

The principal authorities and regulations guiding the Forest Service Saw Program are:

1. Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, Sections 6 (29 U.S.C. 655) and 19 (29 U.S.C. 668). This regulation mandates Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requirements to ensure safe and healthy working conditions for all employees and authorizes enforcement of the Act’s standards. Section 19 of the Occupational Safety and Health Act places responsibility on each Federal agency head to establish and maintain an effective and comprehensive Occupational Safety and Health Program.
2. Executive Order 12196, Occupational Safety and Health Programs for Federal Employees. Agencies furnish employees places and conditions of employment that are free from recognized hazards that are causing or are likely to cause death or serious physical harm. Also, operate an occupational safety and health program in accordance with the requirements of this order and basic program elements promulgated by the Secretary.

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3. Title 29, Code of Federal Regulations. This regulation mandates standards and program administration requirements for implementing Occupational Safety and Health Programs relevant to the areas listed below.
 - a. Part 570, Subpart E – Occupations Particularly Hazardous for the Employment of Minors Between 16 and 18 Years of Age or Detrimental to Their Health or Well-Being.
 - b. 1910.95 – Occupational Noise Exposure.
 - c. 1910.132 – Personal Protective Equipment.
 - d. 1910.151 – General Requirements.
 - e. 1910.242 – Hand and Portable Powered Tools and Equipment, General.
 - f. 1910.266 – Logging Operations.
 - g. Part 1960 – Basic Program Elements for Federal Employee Occupational Safety and Health Programs and Related Matters.
4. Forest Service Manual (FSM) 6700, Safety and Occupational Health Program Manual. To protect people against accidental injury, death, or occupational exposure to health hazards and to protect property from damage or loss due to Forest Service operations.
5. FSH 1509.11, Grants, Cooperative Agreements, and Other Agreements Handbook. Use of these types of instruments when they are authorized by specific authority and the project involves a joint accomplishment of work directly benefiting both the cooperator and the Forest Service.

2358.02 – Objective

The objective of this directive is to establish minimum requirements and standards for training, field proficiency evaluation, and certification for the use of saws by Forest Service employees, training consultants, volunteers, volunteer partner groups and cooperator organizations on NFS lands.

2358.03 – Policy

1. Allow the use of saws on NFS lands only if the sawyer has successfully completed the required training and a field evaluation, possesses a valid National Sawyer Certification Card, including current first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certification (OSHA 1910.266 (i)(7)(i)).

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2. Ensure that employee, volunteer, and cooperator sawyers, who use saws on NFS lands are trained, evaluated, and certified in accordance with FSM 2358.06. Once certified, a sawyer's qualification is valid for three years on all NFS lands.
3. Ensure that sawyers do not use saws outside the limits of their certification except during formal training and evaluation proceedings or under the immediate supervision of a higher-qualified sawyer. A crosscut sawyer trainee may use a crosscut saw only under the immediate supervision of a qualified sawyer and only for bucking.
4. Chain saw sawyers must be at least 18 years of age (29 CFR Part 570, Subpart E). Crosscut sawyers must be at least 16 years of age.
5. Ensure that agreements with cooperator organizations operating saws on NFS lands, not including other Federal, State, Tribal, local government agencies, contractors, or those working under interagency fire management cooperative agreements, contain the appropriate provisions regarding the use of saws per FSH 1509.11, section 91.2.
6. Saw Program Managers will use the checklist in FSM 2358.03, exhibit 01 and form FS-2300-0060. Request to conduct sawyer trainings, evaluations, and/or certifications, to assess whether a cooperator organization has the ability to train, evaluate, and/or certify sawyers in accordance with this directive.
7. If approved, a Cooperator Organization will receive a letter from the National Saw Program Manager and the Regional Program Manager responsible for overseeing them which will authorize the Cooperator Organization to conduct sawyer trainings, evaluations and/or certify their members. This authorization will be subject to review at any time.
8. Qualified sawyers may instruct and evaluate sawyers regardless of agency or organization. Sawyers may participate in training and evaluation courses put on by other qualified organizations or Forest Service employees or volunteers.
9. Cooperator Organizations may only certify its own members.

Cooperator Saw Program Approval Checklist

- ☐ Identifies person(s) responsible for cooperators saw program and for data input into National Sawyer Qualification Tracking Database.
- ☐ Utilizes training program with emphasis on human factors, sawyer safety, including PPE and cutting area control, procedural approach to developing a cut plan, proper saw use and maintenance, including a 5-point chainsaw safety check. Curricula should include a procedural approach to brushing, limbing, bucking and/or felling operations.
- ☐ Follows sawyer knowledge, training and field proficiency evaluation standards identified in FSM 2358.06.
- ☐ Identifies qualified sawyer instructors and sawyer evaluators.
- ☐ Designates a Certifying official and utilizes the National Sawyer Certification Database to certify and issue National Sawyer Qualification cards and track evaluation and training records.

2358.04 – Responsibility

2358.04a – Washington Office, Director of Recreation, Heritage, and Volunteer Resources

It is the responsibility of the Washington Office, Director of Recreation, Heritage, and Volunteer Resources (RHVR) to:

1. Implement the Saw Program consistent with the requirements in this directive.
2. Develop and revise policy on use of saws.
3. Coordinate with other resource program areas prior to making policy changes to the Saw Program.

2358.04b – Washington Office, Saw Program Oversight Board

1. Made up from Directors or their representatives from the Deputy areas of Recreation, Heritage and Volunteer Resources, Wilderness and Wild Rivers, Fire and Aviation, Engineering, Occupational Safety and Health and other affected deputy areas.
2. Decision making body based on recommendations from National Saw Program Manager and Saw Program Technical Advisory Group.
3. Meets quarterly or as needed to be briefed on emerging issues.

2358.04c – National Saw Program Manager

It is the responsibility of the National Saw Program Manager to:

1. Monitor and evaluate the Saw Program in accordance with FSM 2358.
2. Recommend revisions to the Saw Program directives to the Washington Office, Director of RHVR.
3. Serve as chairperson or designate a chairperson for the Saw Program Technical Advisory Group (SPTAG).
4. Maintain a list of and regularly communicate with Regional Saw Program Managers.
5. Coordinate the review of training, evaluation, and certification programs submitted by cooperator organizations.
6. Coordinate with National Scenic and Historic Trail Administrators, the National Trails Board and Cooperators to assess needs and concerns as they pertain to saw operations.
7. Coordinate with fire operations Risk Management Council (RMC) and Safety Strategic Planning Group (SSPG) to assess needs and concerns as they pertain to saw operations.
8. Serve as liaison with Federal, State, local, tribal, and private entities on saw matters.
9. Coordinate or assist in review and analysis of saw-related accidents and near misses.

2358.04d – Saw Program Technical Advisory Group (SPTAG)

1. The SPTAG provides multidisciplinary expertise in saw operations.
2. The SPTAG consists of the National Saw Program Manager, Regional Saw Program Managers and Deputies, Regional Crosscut Coordinators, and others as invited.
3. The purpose of the SPTAG is to develop, coordinate, and provide advice and guidance to Saw Program Oversight Committee in connection with training, skills, and safety for all aspects of chain saw and crosscut saw operations on NFS lands.

2358.04e – Regional Foresters

It is the responsibility of the Regional Foresters to:

1. Implement the Saw Program in their Region, which includes:
 - a. Regions with collateral duty Regional Saw Program Managers designate in writing a Regional Saw Program Manager.
 - b. Assurance of proper training and certification of Forest Service employees, volunteers and cooperators who use saws in accordance with this directive.
 - c. Incorporating appropriate provisions into FSM 1580 agreements (per FSH 1509.11, sec. 91.2) regarding cooperators' responsibility for sawyer training, evaluation, and certification of their employees and volunteers in accordance with this directive.

2358.04f – Regional Safety and Occupational Health Managers

It is the responsibility of the Regional Safety and Occupational Health Managers to:

1. Provide guidance on compliance with the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 and its implementing regulations, 29 CFR Part 1910, as applicable to the Regional Saw Program.
2. Review all saw incidents or accident reports submitted by the Regional Saw Program Manager and provide oversight and assistance with saw-related accidents, near misses, and accident review team assembly and coordination. Additional guidance is provided in FSM 6700, Chapter 6730, Accident Reporting, and Investigation.
3. Notify the Regional Saw Program Manager of review of all saw-related accidents.

2358.04g – Regional Saw Program Managers (RSPM)

It is the responsibility of the Regional Saw Program Managers to:

1. Serve as the primary contact for Saw Program Coordinators in their Region.

2. Guide and assist Saw Program Coordinators with implementation and monitoring of saw operations.
3. Serve on the SPTAG.
4. Develop and maintain a cadre of saw trainers and evaluators. This responsibility includes the evaluation and designation of needed training consultants, volunteer, and cooperator evaluators and Regional Program Instructors (RPI).
5. Sign National Sawyer Certification Cards as the certifying official for Forest Service employees and Forest Service volunteers, based on the requisite sawyer evaluator recommendation, if delegated authority by the Regional Forester. This should be done within 14 days of evaluation. Schedule and coordinate a workshop for Saw Program Coordinators, RPI's and C level sawyers, including partner and cooperator groups.
6. Coordinate and maintain all required records for the Saw Program in their Region. This authority may be assigned to Saw Program Coordinators in their Region.
7. Notify the Regional Safety and Occupational Health Manager, and National Saw Program Manager when serious saw accidents or fatalities occur. Work-related fatalities are formally reviewed via the Coordinated Response Protocol procedures per FSM 6700, Chapter 6730. The priority is always to get injured employees, volunteers, and cooperators the medical attention they need.
8. Monitor and evaluate the Saw Program in accordance with FSM 2358.3.
9. Monitor saw instruction given by both Forest Service and volunteer partner groups or cooperator organizations to assess sawyer instructors' effectiveness and to determine compliance with this directive, annually.
10. Meet with Saw Program Coordinators, annually.
11. Make recommendations in writing to the Regional Forester regarding the need of Deputy Program Managers to have delegation to certify National Sawyer Qualification cards.

2358.04h – Deputy Saw Program Manager(s) (DSPM)

It is the responsibility of the Deputy Saw Program Manager(s) (DSPM) to:

1. Receive written designation from the Regional Saw Program Manager.
2. Sign National Sawyer Certification Cards as the certifying official for Forest Service employees and Forest Service volunteers, if delegated authority by Regional Forester,

based on the requisite sawyer evaluator recommendation. This should be done within 14 days of evaluation.

3. Maintain currency as a C Sawyer Evaluator.
4. Assist the Regional Saw Program Manager with the overall administration of the Regional Saw Program which includes general oversight, training, evaluation, and record keeping.

2358.04i – Regional Saw Program Instructor(s) (RPI)

It is the responsibility of the Regional Saw Program Instructor(s) (RPI) to:

1. Maintain currency as a C Sawyer Evaluator.
2. Assist the Regional Saw Program Manager with coordination and implementation of training, and evaluation, sessions as well as monitoring of Partner and Cooperator Saw Programs.

2358.04j – Forest Supervisors

It is the responsibility of Forest Supervisors to:

1. Implement the Saw Program for their administrative unit.
2. Designate in writing the Saw Program Coordinator(s) for their administrative unit and specify in writing the length of the appointment, responsibilities, and criteria for renewal of the designation.
3. Sign National Sawyer Certification Cards as the certifying official for Forest Service employees and Forest Service volunteers, based on the requisite sawyer evaluator recommendation. This should be done within 14 days of evaluation. This authority may be delegated further to Districts Rangers and the Forest Saw Program Coordinator(s).
4. Meet annually with the Saw Program Coordinator(s) to review the Saw Program for their administrative unit.
5. Ensure risk informed decision making is used to select sawyer operations in their Forest. Weather, forest conditions, number and complexity of trees needing to be felled require that additional resources outside of unit sawyers be used (such as, contractor sawyers, use of blasting, or use of heavy equipment, and so forth). Review and accept the risk of sawyer operations or require that additional mitigations be used if the plan is too high risk.

6. Provide cutting areas to meet Saw Program training requirements and to maintain sawyer proficiency. This authority may be delegated to District Rangers.

2358.04k – District Rangers

It is the responsibility of District Rangers to:

1. Provide input to Forest Supervisor on the selection of the Saw Program Coordinator(s) for their administrative unit.
2. Meet annually with the Saw Program Coordinator(s) to review the Saw Program for their administrative unit.
3. Sign National Sawyer Certification Cards as the certifying official
based on the requisite sawyer evaluator recommendation. This should be done within 14 days of evaluation. This authority may be delegated to the District Saw Program Coordinator(s).

2358.04l – Unit Saw Program Coordinators

It is the responsibility of Unit Saw Program Coordinators to:

1. Serve as the primary contact for line officers and first-line supervisors in their administrative unit.
2. Remain current on current saw policy direction, and sawyer training and evaluation requirements.
3. Assist sawyer evaluators, sawyer instructors, and sawyers with the implementation and monitoring of on-the-ground saw operations and training.
4. Develop and maintain a cadre of sawyers, sawyer evaluators, and sawyer instructors, as well as schedule and coordinate training for sawyers, including those for partners and cooperators.
5. Sign National Sawyer Certification Cards as the certifying official for Forest Service employees and Forest Service volunteers, based on the requisite sawyer evaluator recommendation, If delegated authority by the appropriate Unit Line Officer. This should be done within 14 days of evaluation.
6. Monitor and evaluate the Saw Program in accordance with FSM 2358.3.
7. Notify Forest Safety Manager and Regional Saw Program Manager of saw-related accidents and near misses on their unit. All serious accidents and fatalities must also be reviewed per FSM 6700, Chapter 6730.

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8. Coordinate with the appropriate Line Officers, the Regional Saw Program Manager, and other Saw Program Coordinators to report Saw Program accomplishments, issues, concerns, and recommendations for improvement of the Saw Program.
9. Maintain sawyer certification level as a C level sawyer Evaluator, under direction of Forest Level Coordinators, but must be a C level sawyer at a minimum.
10. Recommend to the appropriate Line Officer, the revocation of a sawyer's certification card when a sawyer's demonstrated skills are no longer considered adequate or who are a danger to themselves or others.

2358.04m – Sawyer Instructors

It is the responsibility of Sawyer Instructors to:

1. Instruct at the skill level commensurate with their saw qualification and recommend that sawyers who have successfully completed the requisite training be evaluated for certification.
2. Conduct sawyer training using a NRSTC.
3. Confer periodically with the Saw Program Coordinator to provide continuity in the Saw Program in their jurisdiction.
4. Monitor and evaluate the Saw Program in their jurisdiction in accordance with FSM 2358.3.

2358.04n – Sawyer Evaluators

It is the responsibility of Sawyer Evaluators to:

1. Evaluate and reevaluate sawyers' proficiency in the field using the Sawyer Training and Field Evaluation form (FSM 2358.3, ex. 03 and 04) and assist Saw Program Coordinators in their jurisdiction.
2. Sign the Sawyer Training and Field Evaluation form (FSM 2358.3, ex. 03 and 04) as the sawyer evaluator for sawyers who have satisfactorily demonstrated knowledge, skill, and ability to safely operate a saw at a given certification level.
3. Input information from Sawyer Training and Field Evaluation forms (FSM 2358.3, ex. 03 and 04) into the National Sawyer Certification Database when it becomes available, if authorized.
4. Issue a National Sawyer Certification Card to sawyers within 14 days of successfully completing their evaluation (FSM 2358.3, ex. 05), if authorized.

5. Assist Saw Program Coordinators in scheduling sawyer training.

2358.04o – First-Line Supervisors

It is the responsibility of First-line Supervisors to:

1. Notify the local Line Officer of the need for qualified sawyers.
2. Provide opportunities for sawyers to receive proper training, including training on First Aid and CPR.
3. Maintain records of all required training for sawyers under their supervision.
4. Monitor sawyers under their supervision, including terminating and correcting any hazardous operation of saws that they observe.
5. Provide a recommendation to the appropriate line officer on suspension or revocation of a sawyer's National Sawyer Certification Card when the sawyer violates these directives and notify the Saw Program Manager when this recommendation is made.

Ensure accidents, injuries, and are reported after taking care of the immediate medical needs of the Sawyer. Ensure the Forest Safety Manager and Unit Saw Program Coordinator is informed in a timely manner of saw-related accidents on their unit. All serious accidents and fatalities must also be reviewed per FSM 6700, chapter 6730.

6. Ensure that proper sawyer equipment, including first aid kits and PPE, are provided to Sawyers.

2358.04p – Sawyers

It is the responsibility of the sawyers to:

1. Perform all saw work safely and within the scope of their current certification as documented on their National Sawyer Certification Card (FSM 2358.3, ex. 05).
2. Maintain saws, tools, and accessories in good repair, including first aid kits and PPE before starting any sawing assignment, including protecting saws, tools, and accessories from damage during transport or use.
3. Turn down any sawing assignment that they are not comfortable performing or that is beyond their ability to perform.
4. Keep all sawyer certifications current including First Aid/CPR Training.
5. Report all saw accidents and injuries to their supervisor and the unit or organization.

2358.05 – Definitions

Brush. Any vegetation less than 5 inches diameter at breast height (DBH).

Brushing. Removing brush and shrubs of less than 5 inches DBH, either during fire line construction or while clearing out a work area.

Bucking. Sawing logs and limbs into shorter lengths.

Certification. Confirmation a sawyer meets applicable training and field proficiency requirements and can competently saw at the identified skill level by a certifying official based on the requisite sawyer evaluator recommendation.

Certifying Official. The Regional Forester, Forest Supervisor, District Ranger, or with delegated authority; the Regional Saw Program Manager, Deputy Regional Saw Program Manager, Regional Saw Program Instructor or Unit Saw Program Coordinator. The Certifying Official confirms a sawyer meets applicable training and field proficiency requirements.

Complex or Complexity. A characterization of the cutting situation that determines the level of sawyer certification needed based on the tree species and crown, amount of material, size, lean, binds, condition of the fiber, topography, stability, and any other factors that will affect the sawing operation.

Cooperator. An individual or entity that voluntarily enters a challenge cost share, participating, collection, or other agreement with the Forest Service to work on a project under FSM 1580.5.

Crosscut Saw. Any of various styles of handsaws operated by one or more persons to fell timber or cut logs manually, other than a bow saw, pruning saw, or brush saw.

Evaluation. A determination by a sawyer evaluator that indicates whether a sawyer is proficient in the safe use of a saw in the field and that is documented using the Sawyer Training and Field Proficiency Evaluation form (FSM 2358.3, ex. 03 and 04).

Immediate Supervision. On-site supervision with a clear view and control of the sawing operation that allows the supervisor to warn, advise, and/or assist the sawyers being supervised, when needed.

Nationally Recognized Sawyer Training Course (NRSTC). An approved training course that satisfies formal sawyer instruction requirements. The National Saw Program Manager maintains a list of approved courses.

National Sawyer Certification Card. The official certification card that signifies a sawyer's successful completion of a NRSTC and field evaluation. The National Sawyer Certification Card is valid for saw use on all NFS lands.

Re-certification. Confirmation a sawyer still meets applicable training and field proficiency requirements and can competently saw at the identified skill level based on the recommendation from a qualified Sawyer Evaluator.

Risk. An estimate of the probability and severity/consequence of uncertain future events.

Risk Assessment (RA). Process or product that collects information and assigns values (relative, qualitative, or quantitative) to risks for the purpose of informing priorities, developing, or comparing courses of action, and informing decision making.

Risk Assessment Worksheet (RAW). Worksheet used to identify risk associated with a task. Mitigations are then applied to identify residual risk and ultimate level of supervision needed to be decision maker.

Saw Operations. Any activity using a chain saw or crosscut saw.

Sawyer. The primary operator of a saw.

Sawyer Evaluator. A C Sawyer or a B sawyer with written designation, including a volunteer partner, cooperator, or training consultant, who determines whether a sawyer is proficient in the safe use of a saw in the field and documents that determination using the Sawyer Training and Field Proficiency Evaluation form.

Sawyer Instructor. A C Sawyer, or a B sawyer with written designation, including a volunteer partner, cooperator, or training consultant, who can conduct or assist with sawyer training at the sawyer's skill level.

Training Consultant. A professional sawyer who is deemed qualified to instruct and/or evaluate sawyers. The qualification determination is based on the written recommendation of the Regional Saw Program Manager or designee. Letters of designation are only valid in the issuing Region.

Tree. Any vegetation with a bole greater than 5 inches DBH.

Volunteer. A person who gives time and talent to advance the mission of the Forest Service and who receives no salary or wages from the Forest Service for that service, including for purposes of this section sponsored volunteers and international volunteers as defined in FSM 1830.5.

2358.06 – Training, Evaluation, Re-evaluation, Certification and Revocation of Certification

Sawyer training and field proficiency evaluation for each certification level must address all skills, knowledge, and safety concerns associated with that level. Recommendations to the certifying official by sawyer evaluators should match the sawyers' knowledge, skill, and demonstrated performance.

2358.06a – Training

1. All sawyers must complete a Nationally Recognized Saw Training Course (NRSTC). Training courses should include both classroom and field instruction.
2. Sawyer instructors must be certified at the C or B level Sawyer (B level sawyers may only instruct with a letter of designation from a Unit Saw Program Coordinator).
3. Qualified instructors may instruct sawyers regardless of agency or organization.
4. Sawyer instructors may only instruct within the limits of their certification level (for example, a bucking only C Sawyer can only instruct for bucking).
5. See FSM 2358.06e, exhibit 01, for detailed guidance on National Saw Program training, knowledge, and skill requirements.

2358.06b – Evaluation

1. All sawyers must undergo a field evaluation where they will demonstrate proficient use and care of a saw by applying learned knowledge and skill.
2. Evaluation results will be documented on latest version of form FS-2300-0052a.
3. Qualified evaluators may evaluate sawyers, regardless of agency or organization.
4. Depending on the qualification level being sought by the sawyer, different levels of certification are required by those who are evaluating them. The certification level of the evaluators must be current at the level they are evaluating for (such as, an evaluator for a C level crosscut felling and bucking candidate must be current at the C crosscut felling and bucking level). An evaluator with a bucking only certification may only evaluate in bucking scenarios.
5. **A level sawyers** need to be evaluated either by a B level sawyer who has a letter from the unit saw coordinator designating them as an evaluator, or a C level sawyer. An approved training consultant may also evaluate at the A level.

6. **B level sawyers** need to be evaluated by a C level sawyer or an approved training consultant.
7. **C level sawyers** need to be evaluated by 2 evaluators. One of the evaluators must be qualified at the C evaluator level. The second can either be a C level sawyer, or a training consultant.
8. To become a **C Sawyer Evaluator** a candidate must participate in a C Sawyer evaluation as an evaluator. They need to be evaluated by two current C Sawyer Evaluators, one of which needs to be the Regional Saw Program Manager or be a current C Sawyer Evaluator designated by the Regional Saw Program Manager to represent them.

2358.06c – Sawyer Re-evaluation

The National Sawyer Certification Card is valid for 3 years and is subject to review any time prior to expiration.

Minimum requirements for sawyer training and field proficiency reevaluation include:

1. A knowledge refresher conducted in the classroom or the field and including discussion or demonstrations that covers current saw directives, training and evaluation practices, saw safety and cutting techniques.
2. A skill refresher, including a field proficiency evaluation, for the sawyer's certification level being sought.
3. For sawyer instructors, in addition to items 1 and 2 above, conducting at least one NRSTC or refresher every three years.
4. For sawyer evaluators, in addition to items 1 and 2 above, conducting at least one sawyer field proficiency evaluation or re-evaluation at the C level sawyer or B level sawyer for B level sawyer evaluators, every three years.

2358.06d – Certification

Sawyers may be certified upon successful completion of required training and a field proficiency evaluation. A National Sawyer Certification Card is issued to a sawyer to document the sawyer's certification and allows the sawyer to perform saw operations on NFS lands within the qualifications noted on the card.

1. Sawyer Certification Cards should be signed and issued within 14 days of evaluation.
2. Only Forest Service line officers or Forest Service employees with the appropriate delegated authority may sign saw cards for Forest Service employees and Forest Service volunteers (individuals operating under a OF-301 A/B agreement).

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3. Cooperator Saw Program Coordinators (those working for an organization covered by non-government liability protections) may only sign saw cards for employees of their same organization. Cooperators are not authorized to sign saw cards for Forest Service employees or Forest Service volunteers.
4. Forest Service employees are not authorized to sign saw cards for employees of cooperator organizations.
5. Forest Service Volunteers are not authorized to sign saw cards for any individual.

Cooperators may only certify members of their respective organizations.

Certifying officials must verify successful completion of an NRSTC and a field proficiency evaluation.

All National Sawyer Certification Cards must be issued from the National Sawyer Certification Database as soon as it is available.

Line Officers will ensure all sawyers (except crosscut sawyer trainees) using saws on NFS lands:

1. Are trained, evaluated, and certified in accordance with FSM 2358 - Saw Policy.
2. Have a current National Sawyer Certification Card and current First Aid and CPR certification.

2358.06e – Revocation of Certification

Recommendations for revocation of a sawyer's certification must be made in writing by the Regional Saw Program Manager, or Forest or District Saw Program Coordinator and approved by the Regional Forester or other Line Officer with delegated authority. See exhibit 01, Sawyer Responsibilities and Limitations, and Training, Knowledge, and Skill Requirements.

Revoke a sawyer's certification when:

1. The sawyer has failed to demonstrate appropriate cutting procedures, thereby placing the sawyer or others in danger.
2. The sawyer has failed to demonstrate the requisite knowledge or skills for their current certification.
3. The sawyer lacks the physical ability to safely undertake sawing activities commensurate with the sawyer's certification, or
4. A review of saw-related accidents reveals the sawyer was acting outside their certification level.

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Sawyer Responsibilities and Limitations, and Training, Knowledge, and Skill Requirements

| Skill Level | Responsibilities and Limitations | Training | Knowledge | Skills |
|--|---|---|--|--|
| <p>Crosscut Sawyer Trainee</p> <p>This classification is to introduce individuals to crosscut saw operations or fulfill the need for a second person on the other end of the saw.</p> | <p>May occasionally assist with double buck operation. No felling. Must be at least 16 years of age and work under the immediate supervision of a B or C Sawyer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should not be used in lieu of certification. • Knowledge of Safety PPE requirements. | <p>Formal Instruction: N/A</p> <p>Demonstrated Field Proficiency: N/A</p> <p>Total Training: N/A</p> <p>Prerequisites: None</p> | <p>Basic knowledge of crosscut bucking which is acquired as trainee assists and works under immediate supervision of a B or C Sawyer. The B or C Sawyer will introduce and review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPE requirements. • Hazard and risk awareness. • Operational safety (e.g., sheath placement and removal). • Crosscut sawing techniques. • Proper stance and handling. | <p>Developed while assisting and working under the immediate supervision of a B or C Sawyer.</p> <p>Field Evaluation: N/A</p> |

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Sawyer Responsibilities and Limitations and Training, Knowledge, and Skill Requirements

| Skill Level | Responsibilities and Limitations | Training | Knowledge | Skills |
|--|--|---|---|--|
| <p>A Sawyer Bucking Only</p> <p>This certification level is not used for fire management activities. There is no Incident Qualification and Certification System (IQCS) equivalent.</p> | <p>May buck, limb and brush in the least complex situations under the immediate supervision of a B or C level sawyer bucking only. May not fall trees.</p> | <p>Has successfully completed an NRSTC covering general saw use during bucking, limbing, and brushing.</p> <p>Prerequisites: First Aid and CPR</p> | <p>Acquired through formal instruction utilizing aa NRSTCs, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPE requirements. • Forest Service saw directives (FSM 2358, hazard, and risk awareness). • Proper selection, maintenance, and care of saws and other cutting equipment. • Operational safety. • Introduction to brushing, bucking and limbing techniques. • Proper stance and maintenance of a safe work area. | <p>Developed through hands-on operation of saws and axes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphasis is placed on risk and hazard awareness, correctly selecting and saw and accompanying tools. • Successfully demonstrates minimal proficiency in bucking, limbing and brushing in least complex situations. • Demonstrates ability to identify various binds and the proper method and sequence of cuts to safely release them. • Demonstrates ability to assess when a sawing task exceeds the sawyer's capabilities. |

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Sawyer Responsibilities and Limitations and Training, Knowledge, and Skill Requirements

| Skill Level | Responsibilities and Limitations | Training | Knowledge | Skills |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|---|--|
| A Sawyer Felling and Bucking | May fall, buck, limb and brush in the the least complex situations under the immediate supervision of a B or C level sawyer felling and bucking. | <p>Has successfully completed an NRSTC covering general saw use during felling, bucking, limbing, and brushing.</p> <p>Prerequisites: First Aid and CPR</p> | <p>Acquired through formal instruction utilizing aa NRSTCs, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPE requirements. • Forest Service saw directives (FSM 2358). • Hazard and risk awareness. • Proper selection, maintenance, and care of saws and other cutting equipment. • Operational safety. • Introduction to brushing, bucking and limbing techniques. • Proper stance and maintenance of a safe work area. | <p>Developed through hands-on operation of saws and axes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphasis is placed on Risk and Hazard awareness, correctly selecting, and using tools, saw and axe handling techniques. • Successfully demonstrates minimal proficiency in felling, bucking, limbing and brushing in least complex situations. • Demonstrates ability to identify binds and the proper method and sequence of cuts to safely release them. • Demonstrates ability to assess when a sawing task exceeds the sawyer’s capabilities. |

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Sawyer Responsibilities and Limitations and Training, Knowledge, and Skill Requirements

| Skill Level | Responsibilities and Limitations | Training | Knowledge | Skills |
|---|---|--|--|---|
| B Sawyer – Bucking Only This certification level is not used for fire management activities. There is no Incident Qualification and Certification System (IQCS) equivalent. | May independently buck and limb material in moderately complex situations. May not fall. May buck at the C level, but only under the immediate supervision of a C level sawyer. Can supervise A level sawyers when they are bucking but not when felling. May conduct formal instruction for A and B level sawyers with formal written designation from the Saw Program Coordinator. May conduct field evaluations of A level sawyers with formal written designation from the Unit Saw Program Coordinator. | Has successfully completed an NRSTC covering general saw use during bucking, limbing, and brushing. Prerequisites: First Aid and CPR | Acquired through formal instruction utilizing aa NRSTCs, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPE requirements. • Forest Service saw directives (FSM 2358). • Hazard and Risk awareness. • Proper selection, maintenance, and care of saws and other cutting equipment. • Operational safety. • Introduction to brushing, bucking and limbing techniques. • Proper stance and maintenance of a safe work area. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proficient in basic saw skills and use of tools needed for crosscut, axe, and/or chain saw use. • Successfully demonstrates techniques for brushing, bucking, and limbing logs of various sizes and in various binds. • Demonstrates ability to implement and articulate OHLEC. • Demonstrates ability to assess when a sawing task exceeds the sawyer’s capabilities. |

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Sawyer Responsibilities and Limitations and Training, Knowledge, and Skill Requirements

| Skill Level | Responsibilities and Limitations | Training | Knowledge | Skills |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|---|---|
| B Sawyer – Felling and Bucking | <p>May independently fell, buck and limb material in moderately complex situations.</p> <p>May fall and buck at the C level, but only under the immediate supervision of a C level sawyer felling and bucking.</p> <p>Can supervise A level sawyers when they are felling or bucking.</p> <p>May independently conduct formal instruction A and B level sawyers with formal written designation from the Saw Program Coordinator.</p> <p>May conduct field evaluations of A level sawyers with formal written designation from the Unit Saw Program Coordinator.</p> | <p>Has successfully completed an NRSTC covering general saw use during felling, bucking, limbing, and brushing.</p> <p>Prerequisites: First Aid and CPR</p> | <p>Acquired through formal instruction utilizing a NRSTCs, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPE requirements. • Forest Service saw directives (FSM 2358). • Hazard, and risk awareness. • Proper selection, maintenance, and care of saws and other cutting equipment. • Operational safety. • Introduction to felling, bucking limbing and brushing techniques. • Proper stance and maintenance of a safe work area. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proficient in basic saw skills and use of tools needed for crosscut, axe, and/or chain saw use. • Successfully demonstrates techniques for felling, bucking brushing and limbing moderately in moderately • Demonstrates ability to implement and articulate OHLEC. • Demonstrates ability to assess when a sawing task exceeds the sawyer’s capabilities. |

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Sawyer Responsibilities and Limitations and Training, Knowledge, and Skill Requirements

| Skill Level | Responsibilities and Limitations | Training | Knowledge | Skills |
|---|---|--|--|--|
| C Sawyer – Bucking Only This certification level is not used for fire management activities. There is no IQCS equivalent. | May independently buck and limb material in complex situations Can supervise A and B Sawyers when they are bucking. May independently conduct formal instruction for all Sawyers bucking only. May conduct formal field evaluations of A and B sawyers bucking only. | Has successfully completed an NRSTC covering general saw use during bucking, limbing, and brushing. Demonstrated Field Proficiency: Total Training: to be determined by sawyer instructor. Prerequisites: First Aid and CPR | Acquired through formal instruction utilizing a NRSTCs, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPE requirements. • Forest Service saw directives (FSM 2358). • Hazard and risk awareness. • Proper selection, maintenance, and care of saws and other cutting equipment. Operational safety. Bucking limbing and brushing techniques in complex saw operations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proper stance and maintenance of a safe work area. • Methods and techniques for instructing and evaluating A and B Sawyers – Bucking only. | Highly proficient in chainsaw or crosscut use and able to communicate knowledge effectively and demonstrate field skills to A B and C Sawyers – Bucking Only. Able to understand and communicate the contents of applicable federal regulations regarding the use of saws in the workplace to other sawyers and staff. Able to complete complex bucking tasks. Able to identify hazards and risks associated with highly complex saw situations. Additional skills may include advanced cutting techniques other means to manage complex saw situations as per Forest Service direction. |

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| Skill Level | Responsibilities and Limitations | Training | Knowledge | Skills |
|--|--|---|--|---|
| C Sawyer – Felling and Bucking Only | <p>May independently limb, buck and fall material in complex situations Can supervise A and B Sawyers when they are felling or bucking May independently conduct formal instruction for all Sawyers.</p> <p>May conduct formal field evaluations of for all Sawyers.</p> | <p>Has successfully completed an NRSTC covering general saw use during felling, bucking, limbing, and brushing.</p> <p>Demonstrated Field Proficiency:</p> <p>Total Training: to be determined by sawyer instructor.</p> <p>Prerequisites: First Aid and CPR</p> | <p>Acquired through formal instruction utilizing a NRSTCs, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPE requirements. • Forest Service saw directives (FSM 2358). • Hazard and risk awareness. • Proper selection, maintenance, and care of saws and other cutting equipment. • Operational safety. Bucking limbing and brushing techniques in complex saw operations. • Proper stance and maintenance of a safe work area. • Methods and techniques for instructing and evaluating A and B Sawyers. | <p>Highly proficient in chainsaw or crosscut use and able to communicate knowledge effectively and demonstrate field skills to A, B and C level sawyers.</p> <p>Able to understand and communicate the contents of applicable federal regulations regarding the use of saws in the workplace to other sawyers and staff.</p> <p>Able to complete complex felling and bucking tasks.</p> <p>Able to identify hazards and risks associated with highly complex saw situations.</p> <p>Additional skills may include advanced cutting techniques other means to manage complex saw situations as per Forest Service direction.</p> |

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Sawyer Training, Knowledge, and Skill Requirements

| Skill Level | Responsibilities and Limitations | Training | Knowledge | Skills |
|--|---|---|---|--|
| C Sawyer Evaluator Individual who maintains certification as C Sawyer Felling and Bucking or C Sawyer Bucking only and May conduct formal instruction and proficiency evaluations for all sawyer certification levels. This certification level is not used for fire management activities. There is no IQCS equivalent. | C Sawyer Evaluators conduct Sawyer trainings and evaluations for their unit or other units as needed. Conduct Sawyer training and evaluations in a consistent, fair and unbiased manner. | Has successfully demonstrated ability to organize and conduct sawyer certification sessions in the field which is supported by demonstrated comprehensive saw knowledge and skills. | Has demonstrated ability for high level instruction, hazard assessment, and instruction in complex sawing techniques and an understanding of Forest Service saw directives. | Demonstrated communication skills, the ability to transfer and relate concepts to others and current working knowledge of policy and regulations pertaining to saw use, saws, and related equipment. |

2358.07 – Saw Operations

The safety of saw operations is the responsibility of the sawyer and the first-line supervisor.

An Operational Risk Assessment Worksheet (RAW) or JHA must be completed. All saw operations must be conducted by qualified and certified sawyers.

Sawyers shall be alert and able to conduct sawing operations commensurate with their certification level.

Sawyers are responsible for assuring cutting area control is maintained during cutting operation.

All sawyers shall work in a position or location that is within the sight or hearing of another sawyer or other employee involved in the sawing operation, except in those limited situations where a sawyer shall work alone. Examples of when a sawyer shall work alone include but are not limited to situations such as incidental work to remove a tree blocking a roadway. In those limited situations a sawyer shall:

1. Evaluate the situation to ensure the benefits of the operation outweigh the risk.
2. Establish two-way communications with a dispatcher, a supervisor, or another employee before commencing work.
3. Report how long it will take to do the work.
4. Report when the work commences.
5. Provide an update if work takes longer than expected; and
6. Report when the work is complete.

2358.07a – Environmental Conditions

All work shall terminate and each employee shall move to a place of safety when environmental conditions, such as but not limited to, electrical storms, strong winds which may affect the fall of a tree, heavy rain or snow, extreme cold, dense fog, fires, mudslides, and darkness, create a hazard for the employee in the performance of the job.

2358.07b – Sawyer Safety

Safety procedures and practices for saw operations are contained in approved training materials and reference documents.

2358.07c – Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Maintain PPE in a clean and fully functioning condition. The following PPE is required for chainsaw or crosscut saw operations.

2358.07c – Exhibit 01

Non-fire PPE Requirements for Saw Use

| PPE | Chain Saw Operations | Crosscut Saw Operations |
|---------------------------|---|--|
| Head Protection | Helmet meeting ANSI Z89.1 | Same as chain saw |
| Eye Protection | Safety glasses meeting ANSI Z87.1 or equivalent mesh “bug-eye” type or mesh face shield type (OSHA 1910.266(d)(1)(vii)(B)) | Same as chain saw |
| Hearing Protection | Hearing protection required for gasoline powered chain saw use | None required |
| Gloves | Gloves or chain saw mitts are required for all chain saw operations. | Gloves recommended ¹ |
| Shirt, Pants | Long sleeved shirt ² and long pants | Same as chainsaw |
| Leg Protection | Chaps or cut-resistant pants for chain saw use shall meet the requirements of Forest Service 6170-4 or ASTM F-1897 (current version). Chaps shall overlap boots at least 2 inches | None required |
| Boots | Cut-resistant or leather, laced boots that provide ankle support and nonskid soles ³ | Boots that provide ankle support and have nonskid soles ⁴ . |

¹ Use RAW or JHA to determine appropriate gloves for the environment and/or related tasks

² Short sleeved shirts may be used based on RAW or JHA

³ Use RAW or JHA to determine proper footwear for the environment and/or related tasks. Cut resistant boots must meet requirements of ASTM F2413

⁴ Use RAW or JHA to determine proper footwear for the environment and/or related tasks

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Fireline PPE Requirements for Saw Use

| PPE | Chain Saw Operations | Crosscut Saw Operations |
|---------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| Head Protection | Helmet meeting NFPA 1977. | Same as chain saw |
| Eye Protection | Safety glasses meeting ANSI Z87.1 or equivalent mesh “bug-eye” type or mesh face shield type (OSHA 1910.266(d)(1)(vii)(B)) | Same as chain saw |
| Hearing Protection | Hearing protection required for gasoline powered chain saw use. | None required |
| Gloves | Leather gloves. | Same as chain saw |
| Shirt, Pants | Flame-resistant long-sleeved shirt and flame-resistant long pants. | Same as chain saw |
| Leg Protection | Chaps meeting the requirements of Forest Service specifications 6170-4. Chaps shall overlap boots at least 2 inches. | None required |
| Boots | Cut-resistant or leather, laced, 8-inch-high boots that provide ankle support and nonskid soles | Same as chainsaw. |

2358.07d – Equipment Requirements

Use and maintain chain saws and crosscut saws in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.

Required Features for Chain Saws

The following features are required for chainsaws used on NFS lands:

1. A fully functioning throttle trigger interlock, which prevents the throttle from engaging unless the interlock is depressed on the handle.
2. Fully functioning anti-vibration system.
3. Fully functioning chain brake.
4. Functional chain catch pin.
5. Functional spark arrestor screen.
6. Proper length bar and power head sized for the specific sawing project or activity.
7. A bar guard that is adequate to cover the muffler, chain, and bumper spikes when the saw is carried on the shoulder.
8. A first aid kit that meets OSHA standards (29 CFR 1910.266, Appendix A).
9. An approved safety container for chain saw fuel.

Recommended Additional Equipment

1. A chain saw bar wrench.
2. A chain file with a handle and guard.
3. Proper wedges for the specific sawing project or activity.
4. An appropriately sized pounder or axe for the activity. A 3-to-5-pound falling ax is recommended for felling operations. Only professionally made or commercially available pounding tools are acceptable.

Required Features for Crosscut Saws

The following features are required for crosscut saws on NFS lands:

1. Proper type, tooth pattern, and length of saw for the task that is also properly sharpened and set.
2. Handles.
3. A sheath.
4. A first aid kit that meets OSHA standards (29 CFR 1910.266, Appendix A).

Recommended Additional Equipment

The following additional equipment is required for use of crosscut saws on NFS lands:

1. Proper wedges for the specific sawing project or activity.
2. An appropriately sized axe for the activity. A 3-to-5-pound falling ax is recommended for felling operations.
3. Crosscut saw lubricant.

Refer to approved training material or reference documents for more information on procedures and practices governing saw operations.

2358.08 Saw-Related Accidents

1. Saw Program Coordinators shall be involved in reviews of saw accidents in their administrative unit.
2. Regional Saw Program Managers shall be involved in reviews of all saw accidents in their Region that result in serious injury or fatality.
3. The National Saw Program Manager shall be involved in reviews of all saw accidents on NFS lands that result in fatality.