



**FOREST SERVICE HANDBOOK
NORTHERN REGION (R1)
MISSOULA, MT**

FSH 6709.11 – HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE HANDBOOK

CHAPTER 20 – WORK PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

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Posting Instructions: Supplements are numbered consecutively by Handbook number and calendar year. Post by document; remove the entire document and replace it with this supplement. Retain this transmittal as the first page(s) of this document. The last supplement to this Handbook was 6709.11-2003-1 to chapter 20.

New Document	6709.11_20	6 Pages
Superseded Document(s) by Issuance Number and Effective Date	6709.11_20 (6709.11-2003-1, 12/2003)	4 Pages

Digest:

22.48b – Establishes requirements for Region 1 “C” chainsaw operator certification.

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22 - RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

22.48 – Chain Saw Operations

22.48b – Qualifications

2. Region 1 “C” certifier training. Each Forest/Unit should conduct “C” certifier training and certification to re-certify current “C” certifiers and for initial certification of “C” certifier trainees. “C” certifiers must be able to communicate effectively to train new sawyers. It is suggested that “C” certifiers attend M-410 Facilitative Instructor training.

a. Classroom

(1) Forest/Unit coordinator and experienced “C” certifiers should conduct and accomplish training. Training should include, but not be limited to, the following topics.

(a) Cutting area safety.

(b) Situations encountered at the base of the tree.

(c) Responsibility and accountability of “C” certifiers.

(d) Organizing classroom training and field certifications.

(e) Saw program administration: field evaluation forms, issuing cards, recordkeeping.

(2) Field training. Each “C” certifier or trainee will go through a standard field certification with the Forest/Unit coordinator and one other “C” certifier.

(3) Training observation. Before issuance of a “C” certifier card, the Forest/Unit coordinator will observe trainee “C” certifiers conducting classroom training and field certifications.

Items below are examples of possible classroom training topics.

(4) Chainsaw Field Certification. The “C” certifier in charge is responsible for safety of the entire group at the cutting site. It is required to keep non-essential observers 2½ tree lengths away from any tree being felled. Appointing a monitor or person in charge of observers is suggested. A certifier must be safely positioned at the base of the tree being felled. The certifier should always keep the faller between themselves and the chainsaw. While observing the faller, the certifier should take into consideration the following common mistakes at the base of the tree.

(a) Removal of entire holding wood.

(b) Holding excess wood (leaving stump too soon).

(c) Improper technique on a heavy leaner.

(d) Failure to nip corners on root protrusions.

(e) Trees felled drastically out of the established lead.

(f) Improper escape routes selected.

(g) Base of tree and escape routes not thoroughly swamped out.

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- (h) Failure to insert wedges promptly and properly.
- (i) Failure to recognize a widow maker or other specific hazard.
- (j) Failure to look up for overhead hazards.
- (k) Failure to escape stump quickly and get to a safety zone.
- (l) Felling trees into others.
- (m) Failure to remove snags or other hazards before felling tree.
- (n) Inserting horizontal cut of face cut too high.
- (o) Failure to sound or bore tree to determine location and amount of rot.
- (p) Failure to determine correct lean.
- (q) Failure to inspect intended lay and fall to the longest ground.
- (r) Failure to recognize the potential for “barber chair.” Inattention to changes in wind direction and velocity.
- (s) Failure to recognize changes in the lean (sit-backs).
- (t) Axe and wedges not near the base of the tree.
- (u) Over wedging a tree being felled with the lean.

Certifiers may be called upon to provide training and assistance to “C” fallers that are certifying “A” and “B” fallers. While conducting field certifications, certifiers must practice common sense and patience. Of utmost importance is maintaining the integrity of the certification process.

22.49 - Tree Climbing

22.49b - Qualifications

The following additional direction relates to nonfirefighter tree climbing training qualifications for the Region.

1. Instructor Certification Training. Tree climbing instructors are trained and qualified in climbing techniques, use of climbing equipment, and instructional techniques following the training standards outlined in the National Tree Climbing Field Guide. Instructors must attend a Regional workshop every 3 years and must have annual tree climbing experience through workshops, practice sessions, or project climbing to retain their instructor status. A list of Tree Climbing Instructors and their performance evaluations will be maintained by the Regional Tree Climbing Training Coordinator.

2. Climber Certification Training. Tree climbing instructors qualified at Regional tree climbing workshops shall train and qualify Forest employees who are being considered for a climbing assignment. The instructor shall rate each trainee for the climbing techniques and equipment that the trainee is qualified to use, following the standards and climbing procedures in the National Tree Climbing Field Guide. Each trainee, at a minimum, must successfully complete rescue techniques for trees taller than 20 feet and in larger trees when climbing into the crown. Each tree climber must have a valid first aid/CPR card while climbing. Unless terminated sooner, the climber qualifications are valid for 3 years from the date of training. After 3 years, climbers shall attend refresher training to maintain skills and to get updated on new techniques and equipment. A list of Certified Climbers and their performance evaluations will be maintained by the Regional Tree Climbing Training Coordinator.

Valid instructor or climber training received in other Regions that follow the standards and practices of the National Tree Climbing Field Guide, 2400-Timber, March 1996, 9624-2819-MTDC, shall be accepted in this Region.

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3. Annually.

- a. Review manufacturer's specifications on care and use of equipment.
- b. Practice sessions on use of basic climbing equipment and techniques.

25 – PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT

25.3 – Law Enforcement

25.35 – Firearms

1. Use. Persons assigned responsibility for administrative use of firearms shall present written certification of successful completion of a hunter's safety course, as well as demonstrate ability to handle the firearm assigned to them.

This requirement may also be met by receiving such documentation of instruction and proficiency from a Forest Service or Civil Law Enforcement official certified as a firearms instructor. In most cases, the area Forest Service Special Agency can make these arrangements.

Authorization for administrative use of firearms for such purposes as cone collection, and so forth, will be made based on the instructor's judgment that the employee demonstrates safe and proper handling of the assigned weapon, including loading and unloading procedures, marksmanship, and other factors.

The documented evidence of proficiency must accompany the request for authorization to use firearms administratively, and should be submitted to the Forest Supervisor for written approval.