

4. Sawyer/Faller Qualifications

Bureau and tribal employees, both in fire positions and non-fire positions, perform a variety of job duties requiring the use of a chainsaw. The Branch of Fire Management has a training and certification process for these employees which can be obtained upon request.

a. Supervisor Responsibilities

It is the supervisor's responsibility to understand Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations and provide their employees with personal protective equipment, training and certification in chainsaw operation.

b. Qualifications

There are four chain saw operator qualification levels recognized by the Bureau:

1. "A" Apprentice Sawyer (IQCS Position Code: FALA)
2. "B" Intermediate Faller (IQCS Position Code: FALB)
3. "C" Advanced Faller (IQCS Position Code: FALC)
4. "C" Faller Certifier (IQCS Position Code: CCRT)

c. Currency and Required Training

The following table identifies currency training, fitness, CPR, and first aid requirements for chainsaw operators. IQCS will be the system of record for chainsaw operator qualifications and reflect these requirements.

FALA and FALB operators only need to complete chainsaw operator training once and maintain currency thereafter by simply performing that position at least once every five years.

FALC and CCRT operators are required to attend recertification training every three years. This training should be recorded as BICFLR (C Faller Course) in the IQCS. Initial certification of BIA and tribal FALCs and CCRTs can only be obtained by attending a BIA sanctioned C Faller Course. Subsequent recertifications may be administered by other regional C-certifiers, provided the CCRT administering the evaluation is recognized by the Bureau.

Fitness for all positions is considered arduous except for CCRT which will be light.

CPR and first aid training will be completed as specified below. CPR and first aid training will not be included as disqualification criteria in IQCS. It is not an absolute necessity that every individual assigned to projects using chainsaws possess currency in CPR and first aid training. However, there should be an adequate number of certified individuals to provide first aid services commensurate with the need based on an assessment by the supervisor.

Position	Performance Currency	Training Currency	Fitness Level	CPR	First Aid
FALA	5 Years	n/a	Arduous	2 years	3 years
FALB	5 Years	n/a	Arduous	2 years	3 years
FALC	5 Years	3 Years	Arduous	2 years	3 years
CCRT	5 Years	3 Years	Light	None	None

Chainsaw operator training can be in the form of S-212, a comparable industry course, or a course developed at the local Agency. In order to obtain the qualification of FALC or CCRT employees will be required to attend a BIA sanctioned C-Faller training course. For information related to the delivery of this course please contact the National Chainsaw Program Manager or CCRT within your region.

d. Emergency Firefighter (AD) Chainsaw Operators

Chainsaw training is authorized for AD employees who are required to operate chainsaws for fire suppression or hazardous fuels reduction project work. Supervisors of Type 2 and Type 2 IA crews who have employees who operate chainsaws must have emergency medical response capabilities. The possession of emergency response capabilities can be fulfilled through one of the following two options:

1. Crews will minimally possess one or more individuals who are currently certified to administer CPR and provide first aid. 2. If the crew does not possess this capability other provisions must be made by the supervisor to provide these services while engaged in chainsaw operations.