



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
NATIONAL INTERAGENCY FIRE CENTER
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January 27, 2010

To: All Regional Directors, All Regions
Attention: All Regional Fire Management Officers

From: Director, Branch of Wildland Fire Management

Subject: Updated Chainsaw Operator Policy

Branch of Wildland Fire Management employees perform a variety of job duties requiring the use of a chainsaw. The Bureau of Indian Affairs, National Interagency Fire Center (BIA-NIFC) has updated policy related to the training and certification of these employees. This program was developed in accordance with requirements of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

The objectives of the program are to:

1. Utilize a chainsaw operation training and certification program that meets OSHA requirements for all Branch of Wildland Fire Management employees that operate chainsaws as part of their job duties.
2. Ensure Branch of Wildland Fire Management employees operating chainsaws are trained in the safe operation of a chainsaw and use of personal protective equipment.
3. Ensure Branch of Wildland Fire Management supervisors understand OSHA regulations and their responsibility to provide employees with personal protective equipment, training and certification in chainsaw operation.
4. Establish written documentation of OSHA compliance by maintaining training records and providing employees with a Job Hazard Analyses.
5. Prevent accidents and injuries to employees by providing ongoing training, safety refreshers and periodic re-certification of qualifications through proficiency testing.

The attached documents have been updated recently and collectively represent the Branch of Wildland Fire Management's policy on chain saw operations and certifications. The first attachment is a general program description which, in part, specifies OSHA requirements, roles and responsibilities, and the training and certification process. The second attachment is the excerpt from the Blue Book which includes training and currency parameters. The

third attachment is the current Evaluation Form to be used during proficiency testing. A sample Job Hazard Analysis is attached which can be edited as necessary or used as-is. Finally, the current list of BIA-recognized C-Certifiers is attached for those units who want to host a C-Faller course.

If you have any questions please contact Dave Koch at (208) 387-5577.

Attachments:

1. Program Description
2. Extract from Blue Book
3. Evaluation Form
4. Job Hazard Analysis
5. BIA Recognized C-Certifier List