



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Oregon State Office

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In Reply Refer to:

1112 (OR-950) P

March 23, 2007

EMS TRANSMISSION 03/27/2007

Instruction Memorandum No. OR-2007-040

Expires: 9/30/2008

To: DMs, DSDs, Staff and Branch Chiefs

From: State Director, Oregon/Washington

Subject: Oregon/Washington Chainsaw Operator Training and Certification Policy Revision

Program Area: Safety and Occupational Health

Purpose: This Instruction Memorandum (IM) transmits the revised Oregon/Washington (OR/WA) Chainsaw Operator Training and Certification Policy handbook supplement updating web links, removing two illustrations and clarifying recertification requirements for Level B and C sawyers.

Policy/Action: The intent of this policy is to outline qualification requirements and procedures for Bureau of Land Management (BLM) employees who use chainsaws to accomplish field work. To ensure the safe operation of chainsaws during brushing, thinning, or live tree and snag felling, specific training and formal skill certification is required for all sawyers. The policy outlines specific training requirements for sawyers at each level – A, B, and C, as well as the C Instructor/Certifier level. Certification and recertification requirements are very specific. Appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) that must be worn during all chainsaw operations is identified. Safety requirements for live tree and snag felling are included in *Appendix B-1*.

Timeframe: This policy update is effective immediately.

Budget Impact: Implementation of this revised guidance is not expected to result in additional costs not normally associated with the program.

Background: The OR/WA State Office originally published this Chainsaw Operator Training and Certification Policy in April 2005 as a supplement to the BLM Manual Handbook 1112-1, *Safety and Health Management*. This is the first revision of the handbook supplement.

Manual/Handbook Sections Affected: Oregon State Office Handbook H-1112-1, Release 1-334 (04/25/2005).

Coordination: Safety and Occupational Health

Contact: Contact the OR/WA State Safety Office at (503) 808-6202 or (503) 808-6249.

Districts with Unions are reminded to notify their unions of this Instruction Memorandum and satisfy any bargaining obligations before implementation. Your servicing Human Resources Office or Labor Relations Specialist can provide you assistance in this matter.

Signed by
James G. Kenna
Associate State Director

Authenticated by
Mary O'Leary
Records Section

3 Attachments

- 1 – [OR/WA Chainsaw Operator Training and Certification Policy](#) (28 pp)
- 2 – [Chain Saw Operator Field Evaluation Form](#) (2 pp)
- 3 – [Chain Saw Incident Report](#) (2 pp)

Distribution

WO-740 (Sandy Guches, MIB 2044)