



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Oregon State Office

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**In Reply Refer to:**

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April 2, 2007

EMS TRANSMISSION 04/02/2007

Instruction Memorandum No. OR-2007-046

Expires: 9/30/2008

To: DMs, DSDs, Staff and Branch Chiefs

From: State Director, Oregon/Washington

Subject: Chainsaw Operators Training and Certification - Oregon/Washington (OR/WA) Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Policy and Faller Task Books

**Program Area:** Safety and Occupational Health; Fire and Aviation Management

**Purpose:** This Instruction Memorandum (IM) transmits the Chainsaw Operators Training and Certification IM No. OR-2005-063 published on April 18, 2005, in appropriate format as a supplement to the [BLM Safety and Health Management Handbook 1112-1, Chapter 5](#).

**Policy/Action:** This IM denotes the process to be followed when chainsaw operators trained and certified under the [OR/WA BLM Chainsaw Operator Training and Certification Policy IM 2007-040](#) seek evaluation and certification for any of the Task Book positions of Faller Class A, B, or C as required in [Office of Fire & Aviation \(OF&A\) IM 2004-010, Certification of Agency Chainsaw Operators, Attachment 1](#) and [Attachment 2](#).

As stated in the OF&A memorandum, evaluation and confirmation of the chainsaw operator's performance of all the tasks may involve more than one evaluator and can occur on incidents, in classroom simulations, and in other work situations. All tasks must be evaluated before certification is recommended.

Specifically, chainsaw operators who are issued a Faller Task Book and who attend a training and certification class using the requirements of the [OR/WA BLM Chainsaw Operator Training and Certification Policy](#) are to bring the Task Book relative to the faller class position for which they seek certification. Following successful completion and evaluation of the standards outlined in the OR/WA BLM policy, the certifying instructor may sign off those tasks coded "O" (tasks that can be completed in any situation – classroom, simulation, prescribed fire, daily work tasks, etc.) that were successfully performed by the candidate during the OR/WA BLM training session.

**Timeframe:** This handbook supplement is effective immediately and continuous from the original publication date.

**Budget Impact:** No additional costs in addition to those normally associated with program implementation are expected to result from this publication.

**Background:** Following publication in March 2004 of the OF&A IM 2004-010, Certification of Agency Chainsaw Operators, it became apparent that significant confusion existed at the field level regarding the training of chainsaw operators seeking certification under this policy and those currently certified under the existing handbook supplement [OR/WA BLM Chainsaw Operator Training and Certification Policy IM 2007-040](#).

This policy outlines qualification requirements and procedures for BLM employees who use chainsaws to accomplish field work. All operators are required to successfully complete the [S-212 Wildland Fire Chain Saw Course](#). Training materials may be referenced on [the Safety Website](#). It should be noted that employees who are certified under this policy are also recognized under the U.S. Forest Service Region 6/Pacific Northwest Research Station Chainsaw Operator Policy as qualified and certified to perform as chainsaw operators commensurate with accomplished skills levels. The OF&A IM specifically addresses the fire program policy for training and certification of chainsaw operators for wildland fire and provides Task Book requirements for the positions of Faller Class A, B & C.

The training, certification and evaluation requirements and procedures described in both policies are essentially the same. This IM reaffirms the existing interrelationship between the two policies and creates a supplement to the Safety & Health Management Handbook. The IM clarified the process to be followed in certifying chainsaw operators using the OR/WA policy and/or the OF&A Task Books.

**Manual/Handbook Sections Affected:** Supplemental to the BLM Manual Handbook 1112-1 Safety and Health Management.

**Coordination:** Safety and Occupational Health; Fire and Aviation Management

**Contact:** Contact the State Fire and Aviation Management Office at (503) 808-6461 or the 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

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