## 7. TASK

### Chainsaw Operation

- **Activity:** This activity is extremely dangerous. Timber felling is among the most dangerous occupations in the woods.

- **Training Requirements:** Certification in First Aid/CPR is also required. Do not attempt to fell, buck or limb trees without all the essential equipment, including PPE, chainsaw, small axe and swamping. See FS Health & Safety Code 3-15, MTDC Chain Saw Training Course Guidebook, and Fallers Buckers Handbook for more information.

- **Protective Equipment:** PPE
  - Hardhat
  - Chaps (must overlay top of boots by at least 2")
  - Eye and Hearing Protection
  - Sturdy boots (8" high, cut resistant (leather), with rugged soles)
  - Long Pants and Long Sleeve Shirt, Gloves, and First Aid Kit

- **Tree Felling:**
  - Determine natural lean and condition of tree (rot, splits, loose bark etc.) and the best direction to be felled.
  - Be aware of other trees leaning into the tree being felled.
  - Be aware of snags in the area.
  - Do not cut during shifting, high, or gusty wind conditions.
  - Clean materials away from the tree's base that may post a hazard. Avoid cutting above your shoulders.
  - Before cutting, determine your primary and secondary escape routes to a predetermined safe area.
  - Prepare your escape route by cutting all tripping hazards.
  - Keep proper spacing between operators (at least 2/12 tree lengths).
  - If the identified tree cannot be safely removed and presents a hazard, the area will be flagged off at a safe distance and an alternate mitigation used.

- **Falling Trees and Pieces:**
  - Use open face method - notch is greater than 90 degrees - notch width is 80% of diameter (i.e., 20' tree means notch width is 16")
  - Bore into tree at same height as middle of notch to set up holding wood. Holding wood should be 10% of tree diameter (i.e., a 20' tree would have 2" of holding wood).
  - Use wedges where appropriate and finish back cut at the same height as bore cut.
  - Leave no Dutchman.
  - Notify others in the area that the tree is about to fall.
  - Remove loose bark before beginning back cut.
  - Make the back-cut slightly above (approximately 2" undercut), must be level and even.
  - Utilize swamer lookout under adverse conditions.
  - Wedge tree as soon as possible after beginning back-cut continue with the back-cut and tamp in wedges periodically.
  - Try to avoid hanging tree up in standing timber.
  - When the tree begins to fall, withdraw the saw from the cut and shut it off.
  - Retreat to your safety area at an angle, not straight back.
  - Do not turn your back on a falling tree.
  - Continue to watch for falling limbs and/or other trees after the tree hits the ground.

- **Swamping:**

- **Tool Caution:**

- **Fatigue and Heat Stress:**

- **Extra Equipment Bucking Felled Trees and Kickback Limbing Axcut:**
  - Keep axes sharp and handles tight and without cracks.
  - Never use wooden or metal wedges. Keep burs filed or cut down on plastic wedges.
  - Use only approved gas and oil containers.
  - Utilize bar covers when the saws are transported and stored.
  - Watch saw tip and avoid cutting only with the tip of the bar.
  - Always keep a firm grip on the saw.
  - When bucking logs, be aware of the direction the logs may roll or move after bucking.
  - Do not stand on the downhill side of logs.
  - Stand on the opposite side of the tree from the side you are limbing; watch the saw tip.
  - Use extra caution with spring poles.

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**10. LINE OFFICER SIGNATURE**

**11. TITLE**

- Forest Supervisor

**12. DATE**

- 2/2/19
The JHA shall identify the location of the work project or activity, the name of employee(s) involved in the process, the date(s) of acknowledgment, and the name of the appropriate line officer approving the JHA. The line officer acknowledges that employees have read and understand the contents, have received the required training, and are qualified to perform the work project or activity.

Blocks 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6: Self-explanatory.

Block 7: Identify all tasks and procedures associated with the work project or activity that have potential to cause injury or illness to personnel and damage to property or material. Include emergency evacuation procedures (EEP).

Block 8: Identify all known or suspect hazards associated with each respective task/procedure listed in block 7. For example:

a. Research past accidents/incidents.

b. Research the Health and Safety Code, FSH 6709.11 or other appropriate literature.

c. Discuss the work project/activity with participants.

d. Observe the work project/activity.

e. A combination of the above.

Block 9: Identify appropriate actions to reduce or eliminate the hazards identified in block 8. Abatement measures listed below are in the order of the preferred abatement method:

a. Engineering Controls (the most desirable method of abatement). For example, ergonomically designed tools, equipment, and furniture.

b. Substitution. For example, switching to high flash point, non-toxic solvents. Work Leader

c. Administrative Controls. For example, limiting exposure by reducing the work schedule, establishing appropriate procedures and practices.

d. PPE (least desirable method of abatement). For example, using hearing protection when working with or close to portable machines (chain saws, rock drills, and portable water pumps).

e. A combination of the above.

Block 10: The JHA must be reviewed and approved by a line officer. Attach a copy of the JHA as justification for purchase orders when procuring PPE.

Blocks 11 and 12: Self-explanatory.

Emergency Evacuation Instructions (Reference FSH 6709.11)

Work supervisors and crew members are responsible for developing and discussing field emergency evacuation procedures (EEP) and alternatives in the event a person(s) becomes seriously ill or injured at the worksite.

Be prepared to provide the following information:

a. Nature of the accident or injury (avoid using victim’s name).

b. Type of assistance needed, if any (ground, air, or water evacuation).

c. Location of accident or injury, best access route into the worksite (road name/number), identifiable ground/air landmarks.

d. Radio frequencies.

e. Contact person.

f. Local hazards to ground vehicles or aviation.

g. Weather conditions (wind speed & direction, visibility, temperature).

h. Topography.

i. Number of individuals to be transported.

j. Estimated weight of individuals for air/water evacuation.

The items listed above serve only as guidelines for the development of emergency evacuation procedures.

JHA and Emergency Evacuation Procedures Acknowledgment

We, the undersigned work leader and crew members, acknowledge participation in the development of this JHA (as applicable) and accompanying emergency evacuation procedures. We have thoroughly discussed and understand the provisions of each of these documents:

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