# Appalachian National Scenic Trail

## Crosscut Saw

### JOB HAZARD ANALYSIS (JHA)

**References:** FSH 6709.11 and -12 OSHA (Instructions on Reverse)

**Required Standards and General Notes:** Must hold current saw certification and be current with CPR and First-Aid certification in order to perform activities. Sawyers have the obligation to say "no" and walk away from any situation determined to have unacceptable risk. Additional resources include the OHLEC planning logic.

**Required Personal Protective Equipment:** Hard hat, Long pants, Eye protection, Cut resistant gloves, and Cut-resistant or leather laced boots that provide ankle support with nonskid soles. Refer to additional PPE that may be associated with specific tasks or activities below.

**Tools and Equipment:** Crosscut saw, Sheath, 3-5 lb. Axe with sheath, Plastic or metal wedges, Loggers first aid kit.

**Available Training:** MTDC Crosscut Saw Safety Training, First-Aid, CPR

**Optional Additional Equipment:** Double bit axe, Crosscut saw lubricant, Under-buck tool, Hanging wedges, Pruning saw, Digging tools.

### 7. TASKS/PROCEDURES

**Transport**

- Injury from saw in vehicle during transport
  - Transport saws and axes with guards or sheathes installed. Secure the saw from movement.
  - Cover the cutting teeth with sheath when not in operation. Sheath must cover the full length of the teeth on the saw.

- Injury from saw while walking to worksite
  - Cover the cutting with sheath when walking to worksite. Sheath must cover the full length of the teeth on the saw.
  - Carry saw so cutters/rakers point downhill and away from the body.
  - Remove rear handle to prevent snagging.
  - Walk last in line if you are the person carrying the saw.

**General Crosscut Saw Use**

- Cuts to body, or injuries to eyes
  - Wear PPE at all times as described above.
  - Handle with teeth facing away from your body.
  - Rotate teeth toward your body before handing to another person.
  - Ensure body position is such that you are not underneath the cutting line of the saw teeth.

- Injury due to miscommunication
  - Develop cutting plan and communicate plan to co-workers.
  - Crosscut saws have only one operator who is entirely responsible for sawing even when second sawyer is used.
  - Must have established means of communication, i.e. yelling, radio, hand signals, etc. Communication must be clear, concise and understood by everyone involved.

### 8. HAZARDS, POTENTIAL INJURY SOURCE

- Injury from saw in vehicle during transport
- Injury from saw while walking to worksite
- Cuts to body, or injuries to eyes
- Injury due to miscommunication

### 9. ABATEMENT ACTIONS OR PROCEDURES

- Engineering Controls * Substitution * Administrative Controls * PPE
| Injury due to faulty tool | • Inspect saw prior to operation.
• Must have good working handles. Tighten handles as needed.
• Saws must be properly set and sharpened by trained crosscut saw professionals. If you are not trained to sharpen crosscut saws, do not attempt to do so. |
| Injury to second sawyer | • Second sawyer must be in a safe position. Single buck if in doubt.
• Predetermine initial saw direction and who will remove the saw. |
| Situational Awareness and Size Up | • A sawyer will not work alone.
• Consider your condition, fatigue, experience, comfort level.
• Analyze the cutting area by considering: location of people, structures, power lines, and other obstacles.
• Identify travel routes in the cutting area. Consider topography and steep ground.
• Identify nearby hazards such as trees, low-hanging and dead limbs, rocks, brush: moisture (rain, snow, ice).
• Define primary and secondary escape routes and safe zones.
• Know: wind direction and velocity, tree species - both alive and dead, diameter (and height) of trees. Soundness of tree. Lean direction. Widow makers.
• Look up and around often.
• Through your assessment, develop a plan for the proposed scope of work and communicate the plan with co-workers around you. |
| Bucking and Limbing | • Develop bucking/limbing plan. Communicate plan with coworkers.
• Ensure stable footing.
• Anticipate binds / tension and compression and plan mitigation.
• Initiate cut slowly to observe/read bind.
• Use wedges.
• Use caution when cutting limbs that support logs off the ground.
• Avoid finishing cuts from the downhill side.
• On steep ground, try to prevent bucked sections from rolling or sliding. Do not buck logs on steep slopes with people below.
• Limb from top of large logs.
• Carefully relieve tension on saplings and limbs (spring poles) with a series of small cuts to the compression side.
• If bucking situation deemed unsafe, use alternate method or cancel task.
• Sound warning for all objects moving downhill. |
| Injury from working too closely together | • Space activities so one will not create a hazard for another.  
• Ensure adequate traffic control measures are taken on trails  
• Develop communication strategy.  
• Always stop the saw to let visitors pass. Use spotter when feasible. |
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| Felling | Injury from inadequate planning/preparation | • After determining the project scope, and assessing the tree and its condition, develop a felling plan and communicate plan with co-workers.  
• Determine who handles the saw as the tree falls.  
• Sawyers must have appropriate certification for felling.  
• Ensure you have enough support (i.e. swampers/spotters) for scope of work.  
• Temporarily close off access to the public if necessary, and position spotter/guards. |
| Injury from felling | • Before initiating undercut, warn nearby personnel that a tree is about to fall.  
• Undercut must be clean, no dutchman, and an opening large enough to control the tree to the ground.  
• Warn bystanders before beginning back cut and as tree falls.  
• Insert a wedge into the backcut as soon as possible.  
• Maintain adequate hinge wood for type of undercut used.  
• As the tree commits to the undercut, watch the top as you quickly move away from the stump.  
• If the tree moves in a direction that compromises your primary safety route, use the alternate.  
• Watch for falling tops and limbs for at least 30 seconds. Give an "All Clear!" shout when it is safe for personnel to return to cutting site.  
• Do not leave a partially cut tree without the marking the safety circle and warning others.  
• Do not fell during high winds, electrical storms, or other hazardous weather.  
• Do not conduct felling if the top of the tree, intended lay, or escape route is obscured by darkness, smoke, fog, or any other obstruction, or when wind can affect the control of the fall of the tree.  
• When situations are deemed unsafe, alternate methods shall be used or the task cancelled.  
• Always wear required PPE. |