



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

2430

April 24, 2020

Memorandum

To: Regional, Associate, and Assistant Directors

From: Associate Director, Visitor and Resource Protection

Subject: Changes to Reference Manual 50B, Ch 15. *National Chainsaw Safety Program*

On April 17, 2019, the National Chainsaw Safety Program was released under Reference Manual 50B, *Occupational Safety and Health Program*, with an implementation date of May 1, 2020. Over two hundred comments were received from the field and addressed before the policy was released, and the National Park Service's first Servicewide chainsaw policy has been well received. During the last 12 months, members of the Chain Saw Safety Working Group have continued to look for opportunities to make the policy more effective, and to assist parks in implementing effective safety programs around this use. Two requirements that have caused the field difficulty have been identified, and the following changes are incorporated:

1. Bloodborne Pathogens Training. The current policy requires all chainsaw operators to complete Bloodborne Pathogens (BBP) training. The policy is amended to provide clarity that all chainsaw operators must receive training in "universal precautions". The concept of "universal precautions", a component of BBP protection, is addressed during required First Aid and CPR training. Supervisors shall ensure First Aid and CPR training for employees includes universal precautions.
2. Operational Leadership. The current policy requires chainsaw operators to complete the 16-hour NPS Operational Leadership Course. While over 30,000 NPS employees have completed the training, volunteers who work for partner organizations maintaining National Historic and Scenic Trails do not have ready access to this training; therefore, the chainsaw policy has been modified to allow trail volunteers supervised by partner organizations who are a part of the Trails system to complete the NPS "TrailSafe!" risk management training program as an equivalent training to fulfill this requirement. NPS employees and volunteers directly supervised by the NPS must continue to complete the 16-hour Operational Leadership training, but formal risk management training equivalent to the 16-hour Operational Leadership Course is acceptable until newly hired permanent or seasonal employees or volunteers are able to attend the NPS Operational Leadership Course. Regional

Safety Managers and the Office of Risk Management can be consulted for questions regarding equivalent training.

The changes listed above are in effect as of the date of this memorandum, and the new implementation date of the National Chain Saw Safety Program is May 1, 2021.

Please direct questions to Daryl Avery, Branch Chief, Occupational Safety and Health, at daryl_avery@nps.gov, or Susan Eaves, Occupational Safety Manager, at susan_eaves@nps.gov.

Attachments

Cc: (A) Deputy Director, Operations
Deputy Regional Directors
All Superintendents
Chief, Office of Risk Management
Regional Safety and Health Managers
National and Historic Trails Program Manager