

 <p style="text-align: center;">ARIZONA STATE FORESTRY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">STANDARD OPERATIONAL POLICY</p>	<p>SECTION: 800</p> <p>Training and Qualifications</p>	<p>APPROVAL PARTY:</p> <p><i>[Signature]</i> STATE FORESTER</p>
	<p>SOG : 801</p> <p>CHAIN SAW PROGRAM</p>	<p>EFFECTIVE DATE:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">May 19, 2016</p>
		<p>SUPERCEDES:</p> <p>Issued: April 01, 2013</p>

Definitions: Chainsaw operations include, but are not limited to, felling, bucking, brushing, limbing and specialized uses.

Policy: Chainsaw operation shall only be conducted by personnel who have successfully completed the required training, are certified as set forth in this directive and are wearing the proper PPE to accomplish the job. These activities are high-risk, and must be performed by an operator who has successfully completed the training and certification requirements. **If a situation is determined to be an unacceptable risk, the operator has the obligation to say “no” and walk away.**

Individual Training and Qualification

1. Content of Training. For classroom training the instructor shall introduce and review Federal as well as the Department of Forestry and Fire Management (DFFM) policy and procedures, proper maintenance and care of the saw, safe saw operations, and the use of applicable safety equipment. Field training shall focus on hands on safe operation of the saw. Specific saw activities will be related to the certification level.
2. Training Curriculum. Initial saw training and certification courses shall use the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) Course “Wildfire Chain Saws (S-212).” The course description and objectives are identified in the NWCG Field Managers Course Guide. The Course Guide states that the minimum instructor qualifications are agency determined. The DFFM requires the Lead Instructor of the S-212 Course to be currently certified as either an Intermediate Faller (FAL2) or an Advanced Faller (FAL1).
3. Fallers of all levels (FAL3, FAL2, and FAL1) will maintain current certification in CPR/First Aid and Blood-borne Pathogens. Being currently qualified as an EMT Basic, Advanced or Paramedic does satisfy this requirement.

Certification Procedures

1. DFFM employees, Arizona Department of Corrections participating in the Wildland Program, Cooperators with the State of Arizona, and volunteers under agreement with the State of Arizona who have successfully completed the training may be certified as set forth in this directive. Course Instructors are not authorized to certify personnel who are not DFFM

employees, ADOC, Cooperators, or volunteers under agreement with the DFFM but may provide training and recommendations for certification.

2. The NWCG Position Task Books will be utilized to certify Basic, Intermediate and Advanced Fallers.

- Basic Faller: Basic Faller (FAL3) taskbooks can be initiated and certified by the Fire Chief or designated training officer at the Cooperator or the DFFM District Level.
- Taskbook Initiation: To Initiate an Intermediate Faller (FAL2) or an Advanced Faller (FAL1) taskbook, a request must be submitted to and approved by the AZ State Wildland Qualifications Review Committee.
 - A person requesting to initiate an Intermediate Faller (FAL2) taskbook must be recommend by a currently qualified Intermediate or Advanced Faller (FAL2 or FAL1).
 - A person requesting to initiate an Advanced Faller (FAL1) taskbook must be recommended by a currently qualified Advanced Faller (FAL1).
- Taskbook Evaluations: Faller taskbook tasks and evaluations can be filled out by a faller at the same qualification level. The final evaluator, however, must be a faller at a higher qualification level (i.e. a FAL2 can sign off tasks and an evaluation for a FAL2 trainee, but a FAL1 must be the final evaluator).
 - As there are no Faller qualifications beyond the Advanced Faller (FAL1), the Advanced Faller (FAL1) taskbook must contain 2 evaluations recommending certification from 2 separate currently qualified Advanced Fallers.
- Taskbook Certification: Completed Intermediate Faller (FAL2) and Advanced Faller (FAL1) position taskbooks must be submitted to the AZ State Wildland Qualification Review Committee for approval once all data had been entered and uploaded into IQS.

3. Certification Restrictions. The final evaluators and/or agency certifiers have complete authority to impose restrictions. This may include project or size limitations. These restrictions must be recorded in the qualification comments in IQS.

Roles and Responsibilities

1. State Forester. The State Forester has overall responsibility for the saw program.
2. The Arizona State Safety Officer will oversee the saw program and provide leadership of the saw program.

The Safety Officer will appoint a Program Coordinator within each DFFM District. This appointment should be in writing with a copy sent to the State Forester.

Responsibilities include:

- a. Administering policy as set forth by the State Forester.
 - b. Provide assistance to Cooperators and State employees regarding the saw program.
 - c. Disseminate current knowledge of policy and regulations pertaining to chainsaws and related equipment.
 - d. Serve on (or assign a FAL1 to serve on) the accident investigation teams when requested where accidents involve saw operations.
 - e. Possess current knowledge of chainsaw PPE and appropriate safety regulations.
3. DFFM State Training Officer/ or Designee responsibilities include:
 - a. Ensure the required documentation has been submitted prior to forwarding a request to the Qualification Review Committee.
 - b. Maintain a record (in IQS) of the Intermediate and Advanced Fallers who have been approved by the Qualification Review Committee.
 - c. Issue a Qualification Card (Red Card) to individuals who have been approved at the Intermediate Faller trainee level or higher.
 - d. Include the Basic Faller (FAL3) qualification on State Issued Red Cards provided the individual has submitted the required documentation.
 - e. Coordinate with State Forester and State Safety Officer to ensure standardized certification and documentation processes are followed.
 - f. Ensure there is at least one Chain Saw Representative present during each quarterly AZ State Qualifications Review Committee Meeting to give input regarding requests for Faller Qualifications.
 4. The Fire Chief or their designated Training Officer is responsible to sign off as the certifying official for each Faller (FAL3) task book that is issued to an employee in their Fire Department/District without review by the Qualification Review Committee. The Fire Chief or designated Training Officer will not issue an Intermediate Faller (FAL2) or Advanced Faller (FAL1) without approval from the Qualifications Review Committee.

- The Fire Chief must ensure that their employees meet the minimum requirements before including a Basic Faller (FAL3) qualification on a red card that they issue. The minimum requirements are:
 - i. Qualified as FFT2
 - ii. Certificate for S-212 – Wildland Chain Saw
 - iii. Current with CPR/First Aid & Blood-borne Pathogens training (documented with a current CPR/First Aid Card & Blood-borne Pathogens card or current EMT Basic, Advanced or Paramedic card)
 - iv. Arduous Fitness Test
 - v. Completed FAL3 Task Book

5. Final Evaluators. The Final Taskbook Evaluators are responsible to:

- a. Assess the skill of the operator, and document the assessment on the taskbook evaluation form and the stump analysis form as appropriate.
- b. Identify operating limitations when appropriate. Limitations should refer to operations such as “limbing only,” “bucking only,” limbing and bucking only,” or “brushing only.” These limitations should be documented on the final evaluation in the comments section.

6. Sawyers.

- a. FAL3 Basic Faller: These sawyers have completed an S-212 class for chainsaws. They must hold current certification in CPR/First Aid and Blood-borne Pathogens (or current certification as EMT Basic, Advanced or Paramedic). They have also been certified for completing the NWCG Basic Faller taskbook. They can use chainsaws or crosscut to do brushing, limbing, bucking and falling up to 8 inches without direct supervision by a higher credentialed faller.
- b. FAL2 Intermediate Faller: These sawyers have completed an S-212 class for chainsaws. They must hold current certification in CPR/First Aid and Blood-borne Pathogens (or current certification as EMT Basic, Advanced or Paramedic). They have also been certified for completing the NWCG Advanced Faller taskbook. They can fall and buck trees generally up to the length of their bar. The trees should not be complex in nature. They can sign taskbooks and evaluations at the FAL3 and FAL2 level, but can only be a final evaluator for the FAL3 level.
- c. FAL1 Advanced Faller: These Sawyers have completed an S-212 class for chainsaws. They must hold current certification in CPR/First Aid and Blood-borne Pathogens (or current certification as EMT Basic, Advanced or Paramedic). They have also been certified for completing the NWCG Advanced Faller taskbook. They can fall and buck

trees up to their comfort level. They can sign taskbooks and evaluations at the 3, 2 and 1 levels, but can only solely certify at the 3 and 2 levels (it takes two FAL1 signatures to certify a new FAL1).

Recertification

The Faller qualifications have a currency cycle of 3 years. When a faller completes faller work during an assignment (Wildland Incident or Project Work) they should document this work on their fire experience log. When the data from their Fire Experience Log is entered in IQS the expiration date for their qualification will extend to 3 years beyond their most recent assignment.

In addition to maintaining the currency of their qualification, each faller must complete a refresher class every 3 years. Completing an RT-212 course meets the requirements for the chainsaw refresher. Otherwise, the minimum recertification requirements are:

1. Classroom review shall last a minimum of 4 hours and will involve applicable safety films and job hazard analysis and cover accident and situational awareness review.
2. Hands on field review by a faller who is qualified at one level above the operator (with the exception that a FAL1 can complete a review for another FAL1). The operator shall perform work at an acceptable level with material relevant to the certification.

The refresher can be documented with a training roster or a certificate of review.

Monitoring

Monitoring is critical to the prevention of saw accidents. The agency should ensure that a competent and capable supervisor is assigned to all cutting projects to supervise day to day operations for the safety of their personnel. District Managers, or a person they designate, may (and are encouraged to) conduct activity reviews or other periodic inspections to ensure that workers are using acceptable procedures for tree felling and other saw applications.

Following are suggested review elements:

- a. Review of operator's training, certification, and recertification.
- b. Review of felling methods and operator understanding of felling cuts and their relationship to each other, wedges, escape routes, procedural felling steps, and other critical points of saw use.
- c. Use of personal protective equipment.
- d. Review of JHA's.
- e. Safety and tailgate meetings.
- f. Observation of unsafe practices; corrective actions.
- g. Review operators who are in training status or who have a restricted operation.

- h. Use of stump reading to judge the quality of felling work.
- i. Encouragement of both announced and unannounced saw project inspections.
- j. Steps to ensure the safety of anyone not directly involved with the felling operation.
- k. Review of minor chain and saw accidents with cooperators and State employees.
- i. Review Emergency Medical Care Guidelines within IRPG before conducting operations.