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| Standard Operating Procedure | NO: 01-01-14 |
| Scriba Volunteer Fire Department Scriba, NY | Date: 04/15/2017 |
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| Title: CHAINSAW | Revision: 0 Date: |

Purpose

To establish a guideline for the proper maintenance, training, personal protective equipment and use in order to ensure the safety of department personnel when operating a chainsaw.

Responsibility

It is the responsibility of the Equipment Chief to assure that the chainsaws are kept in working order and the Training Chief that members are trained in accordance with the Standard Operating Produces.

Maintenance and Inspection

1. After each use the chainsaws will be inspected for chain sharpness, proper chain tension, loose parts, chain brake function, throttle trigger and shut-off switch operation, clogged air filter, bar lubrication and wear to the bar. If any problems are found that can not be resolved immediately, the chainsaw will be taken out of service, and reported. The chainsaw will be taken to a service technician for repairs.
2. When preparing to use a chainsaw, start the chainsaw to insure it is running smoothly (Never drop start the chainsaw, place on ground hold rear handle down with right foot, grasp front handle firmly with left hand, and then grasp pull cord with right hand and pull.) If any problems are found that can not be resolved immediately, do not use the saw.
3. Chaps shall be inspected before and after use and taken out of service if there are any holes, cuts, or defects found.

Training:

State courses cover the use of chainsaws, but it is important that the department prove operator proficiency and that manufacturer’s directions and safety recommendations are followed. Firefighters who do not have experience using chainsaws shall not use them until training is provided.

Emergency Scene Use

Chainsaw will only be used to cut trees and brush, and shall not be used on building material.

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Personal Protective Equipment

When using a chainsaw the proper personal protective clothing shall be worn. When cutting trees in a non-hazardous area the minimum personal protective clothing shall be:

- Helmet with hearing protection, and mesh face shield
- Goggles (optional)
- Shirt
- Gloves
- Protective Chaps
- Heavy Boots

Buddy System:

Always work in teams with one firefighter watching for hazard that the chainsaw operator can not see while operating the chainsaw. Some of the hazard to watch for:

- Operators footing while backing up
- Tripping hazards
- Unstable tree parts
- Personal entering fall zone
- Fire danger
- Operator fatigue

Conclusion:

It is for the safety of every firefighter to keep the chainsaws in proper condition. Regular inspections, maintenance, and training of power tools can accomplish the level of safety needed during an emergency. It is essential to use the proper protective clothing whenever operating a chainsaw because of the potential of serious injury that can happen from kickback or accidental contact with the moving chain. Following this standard operating procedure will help in preventing injuries that can occur from the misuse of equipment.