CARVER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Standard Operating Guidelines

Section 3.17 – Chain Saw Safety **June 15, 2013**

1.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of this guideline is to provide basic instruction and recommended safety procedures for the use of Carver Fire Department chain saws.

1.1 SCOPE

All use of Carver fire Department chain saws

1.2 GENERAL SAFETY RULES

01. Fear of a chain saw - Do not be the chain saw operator

02. Respect for a chain saw - Be the chain saw operator

03. Do not rush - Running and rushing in the woods is the largest cause of injury

04. Saw always held firmly - You have to control the saw, do not let the saw control you

05. Saw must be sharp - There is no excuse for having a dull saw on a breaker

- It is recommended that each saw have at least one sharp spare chain
- It is recommended that each saw have a ½ dozen box of the proper size chain files
- As each file is dulled it should be put back in the box upside down

06. Saw blade tip - **Never** use to cut with the tip

07. Avoid loose fitting clothing – can get caught in saw chain

08. Firm footing – Absolutely essential

09. Head and eye protection

10. Never walk in front of or beside the breaker when it is pushing over trees. A 2 inch tree can kill you

REMEMBER—AN INJURED FIREFIGHTER CAN PUT A BREAKER OUR OF SERVICE

1.3 EMERGENCY SHARPENING

01. Do not hit the dirt with the saw blade in the first place

02. How to change a chain

A. It is faster to change a chain than sharpen it

B. Do not put it on backwards

03. Sharpening chain on saw

A. Remember—most minor (requiring stitches) cuts occur while hand sharpening a saw chain

--Need stable position
--Need sharp file
--Do not discard used files in woods

B. It is best to sharpen chains (including spares) at the station or send them out to be sharpened

1.4 BASIC CHAIN SAW USE

01. Start

A. Check gas and oil (chain oil)

B. Check chain for proper tension

C. Switch on

D. If cold, put choke on

E. If warm, no choke—If it does not start in 3 to 4 pulls, recheck the on/off switch. If on, put the choke on

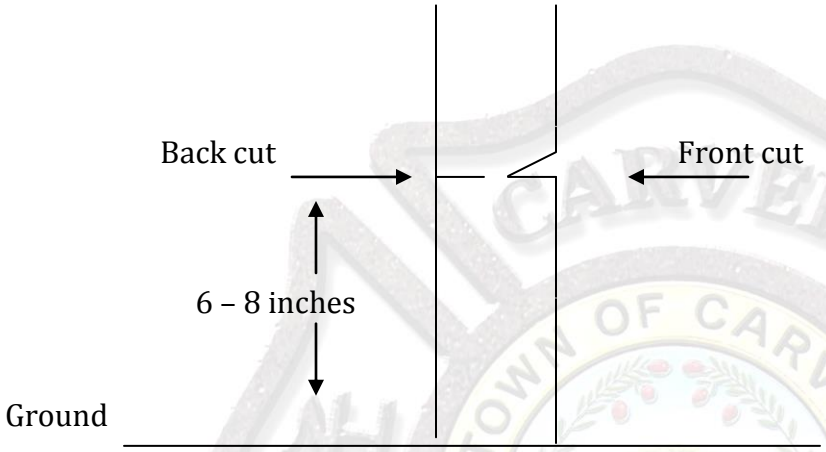
02. Cutting standing trees

A. Cut as low as possible (**not in dirt**)

B. Saw body tight to tree

C. Always front cut or notch 25%

D. When making back cut
--Take your time
--Let the saw do the work
--Watch the back cut opening
---Pull saw out if it starts to close



<u>End stump must be flat</u>

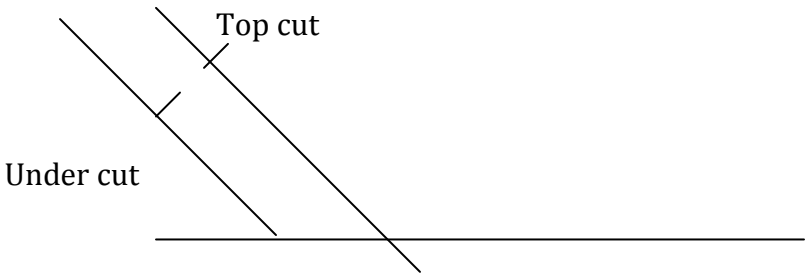
03. Hung up trees

A. If it is not completely cut, do not complete cut

B. If a tree is hung up, an experienced breaker operator can ease it down

- **NEVER CUT THE TREE IT IS LEANING INTO**

C. If you must cut it top cut then undercut in 3' to 4' sections
--Watch your feet



04. Existing trees on ground

A. Start at tree top cutting 3' to 4' sections. If you can not get clean places to cut:

look for places under tree where you can get clean cuts and re-cut into smaller sections by rolling

05. Cutting under a breaker

A. Two man job –one under, one out

B. Out man starts saw, puts chain brake on, and gives to under man

C. DO NOT CUT WITH TIP OF BAR

D. Take time and do best you can

--Do not cut a stump in the breaker is on it
--The breaker will have to be towed of or use its winch