

WTA Registered Chainsaw Proficiency Training Program Outlines

Over the last several years the Woodland Trainers Association has offered a number of customized chainsaw programs suited to the needs and interests of its clientele.

The basis for our proficiency lies in modern training and development practices based on both Canadian and European forest practices.

The Woodland Trainers Association is noted for excellence in training methods and experienced instructors.

This training program has seen a constant evolution and broadening of its clientele, while striving to maintain top quality program and instructor proficiency.

Registered Chainsaw Proficiency Training Program Perspective

- ◆ Training program content was developed to provide Industry, Government and other clients with a course adapted to local conditions.
- ◆ Instructor training has been carried out at the Hinton Training Centre's Cache Percotte Forest and at Olds College campus. As well as other venues.
- ◆ Instructor and field training is hands-on! Primary training aids and instruction are designed to meet defined proficiency standards. It is our goal to ensure that all personal protective equipment and saws are the same as used on the job.
- ◆ Training is flexible to suit individuals, agencies and companies operations, trainee's abilities, site conditions and weather.
- ◆ The number of trainees on a course is limited to optimize learning and safe work practices to a maximum of instructional ratio of one Instructor to eight candidates is to be maintained in both in the classroom and the field. This approach results in personalized and efficient training under controlled situations.
- ◆ All Occupational Health and Safety Guidelines and Regulations are adhered to with written safety plans in effect and consistent with BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan and any other Provincial or Territorial regulations.
- ◆ The Registered Chainsaw Proficiency program works with as many user groups as possible (i.e.: the Canadian Association Geophysical Contractors, Woodlot Management Association, Forest Products Associations, Fire Protection Agencies, Industrial Vegetation Management Associations, International Society of Arboriculture, etc.) to ensure cross training and registration is standardized.

Chainsaw Training Standards

This is a five level registration system, which is composed of:

1. One day Awareness. (Registration of attendance only)
2. Two day Basic. (Registration of level-2, Basic Proficiency, non-feller)
3. Three day Intermediate. (Registration of level-3, Intermediate Proficiency, beginner feller)
4. Five day Instructor. (Must demonstrate above average proficiency, in saw skills, in communication skills and in attitude towards a team environment).

Registration will include:

- ◆ Awareness level 1, the most rudimentary of due diligence requirements.
- ◆ A final written exam for levels 2 Basic and 3 Intermediate.
- ◆ Demonstrated proficiency and field assessment at each level

Chainsaw Safety Training Program and Registration Levels

All chainsaw operators must be properly trained and have the knowledge and skills required to demonstrate safe work practices in order to maximize the benefits of this specialized piece of equipment.

Basic-level (bucker) chainsaw handling training will consist of a minimum of 16 hours training.

By the end of successfully completing 24 hours of training the candidates should reach the level of Intermediate (a beginner feller) based on the candidate performance in the classroom and during field exercises.

The following section describes the course objectives and performance requirements to achieve Level 2 or 3, registration.

Training Objectives

The objective of the Chainsaw Safety Training Program is to provide chainsaw operators with the skills and safe practices required for slashing, bucking and falling operations.

The candidates must demonstrate proper safety procedures and proficient chainsaw operation. They will receive training in bucking, limbing and basic tree falling. They will be made aware of hazardous situations and the potential resulting consequences when operating a saw outside of their own handling capabilities.

Basic Chainsaw Operation (Level 2)

This registration level is designed for individuals with limited chainsaw training and experience. Level 2 registration candidates will be registered at a level where they will possess the skills and safe practices required for **slashing, bucking and limbing only**.

Training Level and Requirements

In order to qualify for this level of registration, each candidate will have to demonstrate proper safety skills and satisfy the following requirements:

- ◆ Successful demonstration of essential chainsaw skills.
- ◆ Must demonstrate positive attitude towards safety procedures at all times.
- ◆ Pass mark of 75 % on final exam.
- ◆ Must successfully meet essential technical slashing, bucking and limbing skills.
- ◆ Satisfactory field evaluation by a certified Trainer (Must achieve a 3.5 out of 5 rating or 70% rating on field evaluation and a minimum score of 25 out of 40 on bolt cuts).
- ◆ Candidates with bolt scores below 25 will not receive any registration.
- ◆ Candidates with bolt scores above 32 will qualify to proceed to the field felling evaluation for level-3, registration.

Registered Basic (Level-2), personnel must demonstrate:

- ◆ A working knowledge and understanding of safety regulations and pre-cautions when using the chainsaw. (Right to refusal).
- ◆ Knowledge and understanding of mandatory and recommended personal safety equipment. Also use and care.
- ◆ A basic understanding of servicing, sharpening and maintaining the chainsaw in the field.
- ◆ Limbing difficulties.
- ◆ Dealing with blow down.
- ◆ Bucking difficulties. Top bind, Bottom bind.
- ◆ Dealing with leaner's.
- ◆ Knowledge and understanding of hazards and techniques specific to their work site operations. Electrical limits of approach. Hazard trees etc.

Duration: Minimum of 16 hours of instructional training. 50% Hands on.

No. of candidates: Maximum 8 per registered Instructor

Intermediate Chainsaw Operation (Level 3)

Intermediate (Level 3) training registration, is designed to develop safe, proficient candidates capable of felling trees under a variety of work site operations and conditions. This registration program is not intended to be a production felling training course.

Training Level and Requirements

The training will focus on developing practical felling experience while ensuring that proper safety procedures are maintained at all times during felling and bucking operations. The candidates will be trained to deal with bucking and felling and may be asked to supervise buckers while on a work site.

In order to qualify for the Level 3 Intermediate, each candidate will have to demonstrate safety skills, chainsaw-handling proficiency, and positive attitude and must satisfy the following requirements:

- ◆ Must be motivated and demonstrate proper safety procedures at all times
- ◆ Must demonstrate above average practical saw maintenance and operation
- ◆ Must be able to safely carry out normal limbing, bucking and felling
- ◆ Must recognize their own personal limitation while operating a chainsaw
- ◆ Must achieve a pass mark of 80 % on final exam
- ◆ Must proficiently meet essential technical felling skills and standards
- ◆ Must receive a satisfactory class room and field evaluation by a recognized and certified Trainer (Must achieve a 4 out of 5 rating or 80% rating and score 32 out of 40 on the bolt cut)

Training Objectives

The candidates must demonstrate proper safety procedures and will receive extensive exposure in felling trees and directional falling practices.

Successful participants must demonstrate a knowledge and proficiency of proper felling cuts and techniques

- ◆ A thorough knowledge of Occupational Health and Safety Regulations and Procedures involving forestry and felling practices consistent with BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan and any other Provincial or Territorial regulations.
- ◆ Precision felling techniques and related tools (wedges, straps and levers).
- ◆ Working with buckers, heavy machinery (e.g. dozers, etc.)
- ◆ Saw breakdown and daily maintenance, filing, etc.
- ◆ Felling theory and practice
- ◆ Dealing with hazard trees
- ◆ All chainsaw operation procedures according to established standards

Course Outline

Duration: Minimum of 24 hours of instructional training. 50% hands on.
No. of candidates: Maximum 8 per registered Instructor

Day 1 - Classroom/Field

- Course Introduction
- Emergency Response Plan
- Personal Protective Equipment, Clothing and other related equipment
- Occupational Health & Safety Regulation when using a chainsaw (local/provincial)
- Saw Breakdown and Daily Maintenance
- Safe Chainsaw Handling and Chainsaw Maintenance Video (list TBA)
- Chainsaw Sharpening and Cleaning in the Field
- Basic cut Presentation and Demonstration
- Working Around High Voltage Area
- Forces and Reactions in the Wood Presentation and Demo
- Student Practice on Bolts (field)

Day 2 - Field

- Compression/tension cuts demonstrations and exercises
- Bucking and limbing demonstrations and exercises
- Boring cuts - horizontal/vertical
- Dealing with difficult situations (i.e., Jackpots, leaner, snags, wind thrown, etc.)
- Student Practice on Bolts
 - Factors affecting bucking cuts
 - Laying trees out for bucking
 - Brushed snags
 - Limbing
 - Bucking limbs under tension
 - Limbs supporting trees
 - Hidden limbs
 - Chainsaw saw bar positions for limbing
 - Basic safe bucking rules
 - Heavy bottom bind
- Top bind

Day 3 - Field

- Felling and bucking practice and student assessment
- Felling Technical Training will Include:
 - Felling Site Assessment
 - Over head hazards
 - Felling Cuts
 - Brushing out Base, Escape Route and Other Ground Hazards
 - Planning the undercut and back cut
 - Unclean Undercuts – hazards
 - Rotten/Hollow Tree Base
- Instructor presentation and demonstration of felling snags progressively, responsibilities for snag felling and Snag assessment.
 - Incomplete bucking cuts
 - Adverse weather
 - Wedging, felling tools
 - Use of felling levers and cant straps
 - Dangerous felling and bucking practices
 - Improper chainsaw handling
 - Hang-ups
 - Hazards and legality of working to close
 - Poor cutting practices
 - Fire killed timber
 - Disease/insect timber hazards
 - Felling on steep terrain
 - Bucking blow down
 - Unstable root systems

Training Course Diploma and Registration Issuance

When a candidate has successfully completed a chainsaw training course, the trainer will issue a temporary 60-day card, and then submit the appropriate information (within 30 days) to the Association, who in turn will issue a registration card (within 30 days) for the specific proficiency level achieved and with the appropriate registration card.

The candidate must meet the academic and practical evaluation requirements, before receiving a registration card. No registration will be issued if the candidate fails either the practical or the written evaluation/exam.

All Chainsaw Training Registration will be valid for a period of **three years**. Proficiency can be challenged before expiration date or the course must be retaken after expiration date.

Registration Issuance:

- ◆ The Trainer or Institution will forward to the Association the waiver form including the names, address, phone number, the exam originals and the Chainsaw Course Evaluation form and where the registration cards should be sent too. **The Instructor must send the original copy of the Waiver, Course Evaluation form (to be filled in by each student) and the Field Assessment form correctly/properly filled and signed by both, the candidate and the instructor and the record of marks from the written exam before registration will be issued.**
- ◆ The Association will forward the registration cards back to the Instructor who will be responsible to distribute the registration cards back to the candidates.
- ◆ An Interim registration card, (white card valid for 60 days only), will be issued at the completion of the course by the Instructor.
- ◆ A green card will be issued for the Level 2 (Basic Chainsaw and Safety Operation) and a blue card will be issued for Level 3 (Intermediate) and red for the Trainers.
- ◆ Replacement cards will be issued only after verifying with the instructor who taught the candidates who is requesting the replacement card, to ensure he/she is in good financial standing with that Instructor. Each replacement card will cost the candidate \$27.00 and will be issued within a 30 day time period. Through the original instructor.

The employer/supervisor will be responsible to ensure that the employee is in possession of his/her chainsaw-operating registration (card) before being allowed to operate a chainsaw. The employer may at their own discretion, require an employee to undergo a practical proficiency test, if the employee has not operated a chainsaw during the last three years or if the employee's performance is deemed unsafe. A registered trainer must conduct all practical proficiency tests. The employer will be responsible to contact a registered trainer to organize training and testing. The trainer will then review results from these tests and advise the employer on their recommendations to maintain or reject the registration.

During Proficiency Workshop Level 2 personnel must demonstrate:

- ◆ A working knowledge and understanding of Occupational Health and Safety Regulations and pre-cautions when using the chainsaw.
- ◆ Knowledge and understanding of mandatory and recommended personal safety equipment.
- ◆ Basic demonstration of servicing, sharpening and maintaining the chainsaw in the field.
- ◆ Knowledge and understanding of hazards and techniques specific to their work site operations. They must physically demonstrate basic skills and safe practices required for slashing and bucking operations. What is new?

During Proficiency Workshop Level 3 personnel must demonstrate:

The candidates must demonstrate proper safety procedures and will receive extensive exposure in felling trees and hazardous situational and directional falling practices.

Successful participants must demonstrate a knowledge and proficiency of proper felling cuts and techniques

- ◆ A thorough knowledge of Occupational Health and Safety Regulations and Procedures involving forestry and felling practices
- ◆ Hazard assessment and precision felling techniques
- ◆ Saw breakdown and daily maintenance, filing, etc.
- ◆ Falling theory and practice
- ◆ Dealing with hazard trees
- ◆ New changes in the Industry

Proficiency Workshop Outline

Duration: Minimum of 1 day or 8 hours

No. of Candidates: Maximum 8 per Instructor

The instructor will have to complete a Chainsaw Course Field Assessment for each candidate wishing to re-new his or her registration. The Instructor will provide the Waiver and the Chainsaw Course Field Assessment original forms to the Association for new registration card issuance.

Proficiency Workshop Classroom/Field Practices

- Review Occupational Health & Safety Regulations when using the chainsaw
- Review Equipment and accessories, standards for personal protective equipment
- Review Adjustment and maintenance in the field
- Review Sharpening and cleaning of saw in the field
- Chainsaw safety and chainsaw maintenance
- Bolt cuts and scoring requirement level for appropriate registration level
- Safe chainsaw handling demonstrations and hands on exercises
 - ◆ Safety plan and planning for the work site
 - ◆ Safe chainsaw handling
 - ◆ Hazardous situations (i.e. Spring poles, snags, etc.)
 - ◆ Bucking and limbing demonstrations and practices and bucking difficulties
 - ◆ Basic falling cuts, undercuts and backcuts
 - ◆ Tension/compression situations
 - ◆ Assessment of environmental worksite hazards and remedial actions to be taken
 - ◆ Basic Felling Techniques and Hazards Assessment
 - ◆ Wedging, falling tools and snag problems awareness and assessment
 - ◆ New changes in the Industry
 - ◆ Review of labour regulations