

Job Safety Analysis

Safety Information for the University of California, Berkeley

Operating a Chainsaw

Overview:

A **Job Safety Analysis** identifies hazards associated with each step of any job or task that has the potential to cause serious injury, determines how to control the hazards, produces a written tool that can be used to train other staff, and meets Cal/OSHA training requirements by developing procedures and work rules that are *specific for each job or task*. For more information, see: [Job Safety Analysis Fact Sheet](#).

Instructions:

Use the blank JSA template and instructions below to create a Job Safety Analysis. It is likely that each item written down will change in sequence or be re-defined during the process. To update the header and footer, double click in the dark blue sections at the top or bottom of a page and make your updates. You must make the changes to the header and footer on both the first page AND on any page other than the first page (e.g. the second page).

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For more information about this JSA, contact the [Department Safety Coordinator](#).

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Task Description	Associated Hazards	Types of Controls
1. Prepare work area.	1.1. Tripping hazards	1.1.1. Clear brush and debris, visually examine area to establish secure footing.
	1.2. Injuries to bystanders and co-workers	1.1.2. Warn people in or near area; utilize barricades, cones, or caution tape to keep bystanders a safe distance from job; consider the shape and lean of tree; consider wind force; plan escape route from work area in case of danger.
2. Start saw	2.1. Cutting injuries to hands, feet, body parts	2.1.1. Start saw on ground with foot on rear handle, left hand firmly gripping saw grip, right hand pulling starter cord. Maintain secure footing. Wear gloves, hard hat, chaps, sturdy work boots. Saws weighing less than 15 pounds may be drop started. Make sure co-workers are clear of saw.
	2.2. Flying debris entering eyes	2.2.1. Wear safety glasses with side protection, face shield.
	2.3. Hearing loss	2.3.1. Wear ear plugs or ear muffs.

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Task Description	Associated Hazards	Types of Controls
3. Cutting wood	3.1. Cutting injuries to hands, feet, body parts	3.1.1. Maintain proper stance and hold; keep left arm and elbow straight, two hands on saw, body to the left of saw; maintain secure footing; never cut above shoulder level; cut with the underside of saw blade as much as possible. Stop engine for all cleaning, refueling, adjustments, and repair of saw.
	3.2. Log or limb rolling into body	3.2.1. Stand upslope so cut pieces roll away from feet, legs, and body.
	3.3. Kickback, blade bucking away from wood	3.3.1. Make sure blade is moving before making contact with material; use wedge when necessary to keep blade from binding; make sure solid objects like rocks or concrete do not contact blade; use 90-degree notch and backcut techniques on standing trees >5 inches in diameter.
	3.4. Flying debris entering eyes	3.4.1. Wear safety glasses with side protection, face shield.

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Task Description	Associated Hazards	Types of Controls
	3.5. Muscle strain, fatigue	3.5.1. Utilize proper body position; stretch, take frequent breaks to maintain alertness; stay hydrated.
	3.6. Injuries to bystanders and co-workers	3.6.1. Maintain awareness of work areas; check barricades; do not approach operators; shout warnings to co-workers and bystanders.
	3.7. Hearing loss	3.7.1. Wear ear plugs or ear muffs.
4. Carrying saw	4.1. Cutting hands, feet, body	4.1.1. Idle engine when carrying less than 100 feet; stop engine when carrying saw more than 100 feet; never carry saw over shoulder.

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Task Description

Associated Hazards

Types of Controls

Required Training:

1. Operation of chainsaw
2. First aid

Required Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

1. Hard hat
2. Ear plugs
3. Safety glasses
4. Face shield
5. Gloves
6. Chaps
7. Work boots

Additional Guidance:

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