

<b>Title:</b>	Chainsaw Policy	<b>Date of Original Board Approval:</b>	January 2016
<b>Approved by:</b>	Mark Runciman	<b>Revision Date(s):</b>	March 2016
<b>Reviewed By:</b>		<b>Date of Next Review:</b>	
<b>Location:</b>	All RBG Properties	<b>Ref. No:</b>	HS-020

### Objective & Goals

To establish a standard for the safe use of the operation and maintenance of a chain saw on RBG properties. This policy is for operation on ground work only. It also includes tools such as a telescopic saw, motorized pole saws, and hydraulic pole saws and pruners

### Scope

All employees and contractors working on any of RBG's properties

### Policy Statement

This policy intended to provide RBG employees with an understanding of chainsaw use and the safely protocols that have been put in place for their protection

### Roles & Responsibilities

#### Manager

- Advise employees of the policy and procedure for chainsaw use
- Ensure that only employees who are authorized and trained in chainsaw use operate a chainsaw
- Ensure that employees are aware of the potential risks associated with chainsaw use
- Provide procedural training to employees whose jobs require the use of a chainsaw
- Ensure that employees wear the proper PPE required for safe chainsaw operation
- In the event of an incident, ensure that a proper investigation follows, involving members of the JHSC, (see RBG incident investigation policy/procedures)

#### Employee

- Comply with all procedures outlining the safe operation of a chainsaw
- Wear the expected PPE while operating a chainsaw
- Report any incidents immediately to a manager
- Employees operating equipment under the influence of alcohol or illegal substances will be subject to discipline up to and including termination. Refer to Alcohol & Substance Abuse policy
- Employees with medical conditions or who are taking medications which may affect their ability to operate equipment safely must contact their Manager to make alternate arrangements

#### Procedure

- Only authorized employees who have completed chainsaw training (and are certified and approved), are permitted to operate a chainsaw at RBG.

- All training conducted must be documented and copies kept on file. RBG will determine when new employees are hired if their certification is valid, or they must be retrained and certified.
- Retraining will be provided as required.
- Employees must always work in pairs when using a chainsaw. Both employees must be trained, approved, and certified in chainsaw use. No one except the operator shall be allowed within a radius of 6 feet of another person when the chain saw is in operation.
- Anyone assisting the chain saw operators must be familiar with this policy
- Chainsaw operators must wear all appropriate PPE when operating a chainsaw: glasses, helmet, ear protection, face shield, chainsaw pants or chaps, gloves (gloves do not have to be chainsaw gloves), and steel toe work boots
- Operators shall decide on and prepare an escape route before cutting commences
- No adjustment shall be made to the chain while the engine is running
- Like all equipment, chainsaws are to be handled with care when using and transporting as to prevent damage
- The engine shall be shut off when moving the saw from one location to another, except when trees are in close proximity and the approach is unobstructed. When transporting the saw it shall be shut off, the chain brake engaged, and the chain bar guide put in place and the chain pointed to the rear. The saw must be cool when transporting
- Chainsaws shall not be used while standing on ladders, scaffolds, or other work platforms to reach work
- Chainsaws shall not be used to cut above the shoulders of the operator
- Do not use a chainsaw with an insecure stance or footing
- Never use a chainsaw with only one hand
- Never remove any of the safety features built into your saw
- Never use a chainsaw with the fire screen removed
- Chains should be maintained: sharp, well lubricated and properly tensioned
- Avoid contact with the muffler
- Fuel and use of chainsaws shall only take place in well ventilated areas
- Warm up the saw prior to cutting. The saw should idle without the chain turning. If the chain continues to turn after the throttle switch is released, stop the saw. Then adjust the idle as shown in the owner's manual
- Never start your chainsaw closer than 10 feet from where you filled the gas tank
- A chainsaw shall be inspected before use and removed from service immediately if any defects are evident that could affect it's safe operation
- Chain brakes shall be tested prior to use and taken out of service if not operating properly
- Hot power saws shall be cooled for 2-3 minutes before refueling. The saw should be placed on bare ground or a stump when waiting for it to cool

**All chainsaw operators must read and understand the owner's manual for the SOP's (Standard Operating Procedures) for the chainsaw that they will be operating. The operator must also perform maintenance as per the manufacturer's instructions.**

### Mandatory PPE for Chainsaw Use

<b>Head Protection</b>	CSA Approved hard hat in a highly visible colour
<b>Eye Safety</b>	CSA Approved safety glasses and face shield
<b>Leg Protection</b>	Trousers or chaps with sewn in nylon pads and close fit clothing without cuffs, made of close-woven fabrics
<b>Hearing Protection</b>	CSA approved hearing protection (Chainsaws create high noise levels between 95-115 DbA)
<b>Gloves and Mitts</b>	Leather Gloves
<b>Footwear</b>	Heavy well-fitted CSA approved work boots

Any defect in a PPE that may compromise the integrity of its safety shall be replaced immediately. If there is any question as to the safety of the PPE consult with the department manager for guidance.