

Felling Trees With a Chainsaw: Checklist for Field Use

Personal Equipment

- Hard hat
- Eye/face protection
- Hearing protection
- Foot protection
- Tools (wedges, axes, etc.)
- Hand protection
- Leg protection
- First aid kit

Chain Saw

- Chain brake
- Throttle interlock
- Chain catcher
- Chain tension
- Muffler
- Chain saw kickback
- Chain sharpness, cutter shape, depth setting, and lubrication
- Handles and guards are tight
- No chain movement when engine is idling

Considerations Prior to Felling

- Determine hazards in the area
- Determine felling direction and tree lean
- Pick a clear retreat path
- Determine the proper hinge size to safely guide the tree in its fall.
- Always use proper felling methods

Work Practices

- Continuous pressure throttle
- Operate and adjust saw in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions
- Fuel saw 20 feet from sources of ignition
- Start saw 10 feet from fueling area
- Use proper starting methods
- Engage chain brake when starting
- Use correct hand position on handles
- Use proper footing/body position
- Clear the area prior to felling
- Do not cut above your head
- Use proper methods for:
 - Carrying the saw
 - Retreating with the saw
 - Moving with a running saw

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