

Chain Saws and Axes – Safety Checklist

	Yes	No	N/A	Comments
1. Are chain saws inspected often for damage? What is the level of maintenance performed?				
2. Are inspections and maintenance documented?				
3. Are chain saws equipped with a continuous pressure throttle control systems?				
4. Are chain saws equipped with kick-back devices such as chain brakes?				
5. Are chain saws equipped with top and bottom guards?				
6. Are employees required to start the chain saw on the ground and at distance no less than 10 feet from an open flame or ignition source?				
7. Are employees instructed not to drop start?				
8. Do employees stop the chain saw or engage the chain brake while moving between work areas further than 50 feet or where hazardous conditions are present?				
9. Do employees use the chain saw above shoulder height?				
10. Do employees stand on the ground rather than the tree while climbing?				
11. Do employees let the chain saw cool down before refueling?				
12. Do employees refuel at a distance no less than 10 feet from an open flame or ignition source?				
13. Do axes remain sharp?				
14. Are axes inspected often for cracks in the handle? If so, how often?				
15. Is the axe head firmly attached to the handle?				
16. Before axes are swung, is obstruction in the swing path removed?				
17. Are employees taught to swing the axe away from their body and towards the cut?				
18. Do employees use the axes to pull logs?				

19. Do employees carry the axe with the blade pointing away from the body and with the handle grasped directly behind the head?				
20. Are the axes and chain saws stored while not in use?				
21. Are the axes and chain saws protected with sheaths or guards while in storage?				
22. Is proper PPE required and enforced while operating, (e.g., steel toed boots, shin guards, chaps or safety pants, gloves, respiratory protection, hard hats, and glasses)?				

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