

Faller 3 Information and Chain Saw Evaluation Form

Operation and Qualification Guidelines

Mission

Develop safe, effective and qualified chain saw operators. Through a solid foundation of standardized initial training, practiced handling and operation, demonstrated proficiency and currency refresher training, the program can develop and maintain an ever increasing capacity to provide sawyers for wildland fire and all hazards incidents.

This program is being developed to provide new wildland fire sawyers with a solid foundation for safe and efficient chain saw handling and operation while bucking, limbing, brushing, slashing and felling for project work and fireline construction. Most members will never achieve the skills and experience of a professional, full-time sawyer. Therefore, it is critical that sawyers be objective when evaluating their own skills and the project complexity.

In addition to the competencies demonstrated by supervisory firefighters like effective communication, personal responsibility, and completion of assigned tasks, the Basic Faller (FAL3) will also demonstrate successful completion of the following:

- Proper fuels and fueling procedures for a chainsaw
- Troubleshooting, maintenance and minor mechanical repairs on a chain saw
- Established procedures for safe operation of a chain saw
- Practical knowledge of hazards and reactive forces
- Proper handling of a chain saw while brushing, thinning, bucking and limbing
- Familiarity with risk management analysis or job hazard analysis
- Procedures for maintaining the chain saw during a typical operational period

Initial Training

Individuals must successfully complete the NWCG S-212 Wildland Fire Chain Saws course.

Qualification and Currency

Individuals must complete an NWCG Position Task Book for Basic Faller (FAL3), PMS 311-91, according to the task book guidelines outlined for all other position qualifications. A qualified FAL3 or higher must be present when a FAL3 trainee is engaged in saw operations. The Final Evaluator in a FAL3 task book must be identified as an *Approved Final Evaluator* (TIFMAS or TFS) for this qualification. (See *TIFMAS FAL3 Approved Final Evaluators List* on the TIFMAS website.)

To remain current as a qualified FAL3, individuals must complete sixteen hours of refresher training (RT-212) every twenty four months.

Final Evaluators

Individuals who are NWCG Basic Faller (FAL3) qualified or higher may serve as Final Evaluators for FAL3 trainees only following attendance of an approved refresher training, RT-212 and recommendation of the Program Lead. Once they have been recommended by the Program Lead, they will be listed on the *TIFMAS FAL3 Approved Final Evaluators List* located on the TIFMAS WEBSITE.

Wildland Fire Chain Saws Refresher Training, RT-212

All qualified Fallers are required to complete **sixteen hours** of refresher training every twenty four months to maintain currency of their qualification. Refresher training will be conducted by approved instructors at various venues throughout the state from October 1 to December 15, and a schedule of refresher events will be posted to the TIFMAS website. Individuals, who are currently FAL3 trainees, do not have to complete RT-212 until twenty four months following their agency certification date.

To maintain the FAL3 qualification on their TIFMAS qualification card, individuals will submit a scanned copy of the completion certificate for RT-212 and a completed *Chain Saw Operator Field Evaluation Form* via email to tifmas@tfs.tamu.edu

The Field Evaluation Form is located in Appendix IV of the Business Manual.

RT-212 will consist of the following standardized learning objectives:

- Review and Analyze case studies and industrial safety reviews; conduct After Action Reviews and Facilitated Discussions over relevant safety topics (2-4 hours)
- Review and perform various chainsaw maintenance procedures (2-4) hours
- Facilitated sawing with qualified evaluators under various realistic conditions: limbing, bucking, brushing and felling (6-8 hours)
- Proficiency evaluation by qualified and approved evaluators (To be documented on the *Chain Saw Operator Field Evaluation Form*) (2-4 hours)

CHAINSAW OPERATOR FIELD EVALUATION FORM	
Name:	Agency Address:
Date:	
Training Location:	
Phone:	Email:
Previous Certification? Yes _____ No _____ Level: FAL3 Agency/Unit: TIFMAS Year _____	
Certified by: _____	

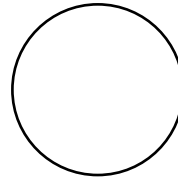
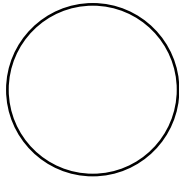
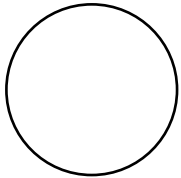
Note to Evaluator: All rating blocks will be filled in with one of the following: A = Acceptable, U = Unacceptable, N/A = Not Applicable. Any item marked with an asterisk (*) and an unacceptable rating must be documented in comments.

YES	NO	SAFETY EQUIPMENT	RATING	CHAINSAW USE
		Hard Hat		Chain Saw & Axe Condition
		Eye Protection		Starting Procedure
		Hearing Protection		Throttle Lock/Chock Use
		Long Sleeved Shirt		Correct Body Position
		Gloves		Thumb Placement
		Boots		Bar Tip Use - General
		Chaps		Boring - Specific
		Axe (3-5 lb.)		Chain Brake Use
		Wedges		Foot Travel w/Chain Saw
		Approved fuel/oil container		Chain Saw Tool Kit
				Field Chain Sharpening
Note: Any safety equipment violations will result in automatic failure.				Other (list)

RATING			HAZARD ANALYSIS	RATING			LIMBING & BRUSHING	RATING			BUCKING
1	2	3	<input type="checkbox"/> Tree/Scenario #	1	2	3	<input type="checkbox"/> Scenario #	1	2	3	<input type="checkbox"/> Scenario #
			Top				*Overhead/Ground Hazard				*Overhead/Ground Hazard s
			*Widow Makers				Brief Swamper				*Escape Routes
			Bark				*Control Cutting Area				Bind/Tension-Compression
			Wind				Swamps Out Work Area				Swamps Out Work Area
			*Hang-ups				*Escape Route				*Thumb Placement
			*Determine Soundness				*Body Positioning				Use of Wedge Cut Procedure
			*Lean				*Thumb Placement				Cut Sequence
			Snag/Green Tree				*Use of Bar Tip				Kerf Observation
			Root Wads/Loose Logs				Avoids Over/Under Cutting				Release Cut Movement
			*Spring Poles				Power Head below Shoulder Ht.				Multiple Bind Situations
			Disease/Fungus				Limb Removal Sequence				Drop Cutting
			Other(list)				Spring Poles-Tension/Compression				Spring Poles-Tension/Compression
							Avoids Kickback				Avoids Kickback
											Wedging Procedure

RATING			FELLING AREA	RATING			FELLING PROCEDURE
1	2	3	□ Tree #	1	2	3	□ Tree #
			*Saw Team Safety				*Go/No Go Decision / Walk Away
			*Maintains cutting area control				Plumb Lean – Determines Lay
			*Establishes positive communication				*Escape Routes, Alternatives, Safety
RATING			STUMP ANALYSIS				Swamps out work area and escape routes
			Felled to Desired/Other Lay				Undercutting – Gunning or Horizontal Cut
			Gunning Cut Position				Use of Gunning Sites
			Sloping Cut Position				Sloping Cut
			Undercut/Face Cut Angle and Depth				*Warning Shout
			Back Cut				Back Cut
			*Dutchman – one/both corners				*Cuts in Appropriate Position / Looks Up
			*Holding/Hinge Wood				Procedure Alteration (if necessary)
			Undercut as a Whole				*Wedging Procedure
							*Use of Escape Route / Safety Zone
							Time

EVALUATOR'S STUMP ANALYSIS SKETCHES



Tree 1
 Height _____ DBH _____
 % Slope _____ Species _____
 Condition _____
 Feet from Center of Lay _____

Tree 2
 Height _____ DBH _____
 % Slope _____ Species _____
 Condition _____
 Feet from Center of Lay _____

Tree 3
 Height _____ DBH _____
 % Slope _____ Species _____
 Condition _____
 Feet from Center of Lay _____

COMMENTS: Attitude, Technical Skills, Verbal Skills, Weak / Strong, etc. (be specific, address all marked unacceptable.)

.
.
.
.

Instructor: (please print)	Date:
Instructor Signature:	
Evaluator: (please print)	Date:
Evaluator Signature:	
Evaluator: (please print)	Date:
Evaluator Signature:	
Student Signature:	Date: