

Operating Guideline # 306

Chainsaw

September 30, 2019



PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Operating Guideline (OG) is to establish guidelines for the safe operation of the ventilation chainsaw.

GUIDELINE:

General

1. The use of any cutting tool is dangerous and can lead to **serious injury or death**. No personnel shall attempt to operate the saw unless they are fully trained to do so.

2. Safety Features

- a. **Chain depth gauge**; used to control the cutting depth of the saw, and is adjusted by the operator every time the saw is used.
- b. **Chain break**; is an automatic chain stop, must be tested by the operator before the equipment is used, testing includes starting the saw and manually engaging the chain break to insure the chain stops moving and reset the chain break to insure the chain will engage properly.
- c. **Throttle Lock**, test lock system to ensure the throttle trigger will not operate unless the handgrip lock has been depressed.

NOTE: These safety devices must be operational before the rescue saw is used, if any of the safety features do not work properly the rescue saw is to be taken out of service until the repairs have been made.

3. Starting/Stopping Procedure

- a. Place rescue saw on firm flat ground away from all personnel.
- b. Kneel beside rescue saw.
- c. Push decompression button down.
- d. Disengage chain break.
- e. Squeeze the trigger and place the start switch to the full choke position.
- f. Step into/on the back handle and place one hand on the "D" handle on the top of the rescue saw
- g. Using the manufacturers recommended starting procedures, start the rescue saw.
- h. Place the starting control lever in the run position and test the chain break for the proper operation at this time.
- i. To stop the rescue saw engage the chain break and place the equipment on the ground, move the start control lever to the stop position.

4. Maintenance

- a. The rescue saw can be serviced by personal that have been trained in accordance to the manufacturers recommendations. Minor items that can be performed are:
 - b. Filling the Rescue Saw, use STIHL "Moto Mix" (a premixed fuel with a longer shelf life). Unscrew the fuel cap and fill until the fuel tank on the saw is full. Do not over fill, as spilled fuel is a fire hazard. Re-install the fuel cap.

Operating Guideline # 306

Chainsaw

September 30, 2019



c. Fill the bar oil reservoir by removing the oil fill cap and fill the tank with approved bar oil as using any other type of oil will decrease the life of the guide bar and chain.

d. Servicing air filter is accomplished by removing the plastic cover and sweeping the dirt from the air filter with a soft brush and then re-install cover. All other service in this area should be completed by a certified service center.

e. Adjusting the chain tension or changing the cutting chain, use and follow the manufactures recommended guidelines to complete this task.

f. Cleaning of the saw can be as simple as wiping the dirt and oil off the outside of the equipment or a more detailed cleaning by removing parts, always follow the manufactures recommended guidelines.

NOTE: All major service and repairs including chain sharpening should be performed by a certified service center.

5. Operations

While performing roof operations always follow the OG's on roof operations. The following safety precautions shall be followed when operating the saw.

a. The operator of the equipment must be wearing full protective equipment, including eye protection and complete a safety check of the equipment and the surrounding area of operation before cutting operations begin. No personnel will stand in front of the saw while it is being started or operated. The depth cutting gauge, on the rescue saw, will be set before it is started. All other firefighters, not involved in cutting operations will be kept away while operations take place. The saw will be started on the ground and run, to warm up, and then be shut off before being taken to the roof. No member shall carry/raise the saw to the roof while the device is running. One firefighter will act as a guide to watch where the saw operator is going and will clear the path of any obstructions.

b. The use of the saw for tree or branch felling or removal is strictly limited to those persons who have received special training in this function.

c. After each use, the saw will be inspected and cleaned before being put back into service. The saw is to be stored with the chain fully covered by the depth guide. All inspections done during apparatus maintenance will be recorded on the apparatus check sheets. Where maintenance/repair is required that cannot be completed in-house, the Deputy Chief is to be notified to make the necessary arrangements.

NOTE: Chainsaw operations are dangerous, all safety and operational guidelines must be followed at all times. No short cuts will be tolerated.

RESPONSIBILITY:

It is the responsibility of all Emergency Operations Division staff to comply with the provisions of this Operating Guideline.

REFERENCES

- MLFD OG 816 – Roof Operations