

Cutting Trees, Pre-commercial Thinning and Slashing



Section I of the Forest
Activities Code

General requirements:

Any worker falling trees or bucking a log must be located so they do not endanger others.

Personnel must not approach within two tree lengths without receiving a signal it is safe.

The minimum distance between workers must be twice the height of the trees.

Workers whose primary job is to manually use a chain saw for activities like falling and bucking trees, pre-commercial thinning, brush clearing and slashing must carry a whistle.

When cutting next to roads create hazards they must comply with the rules for flagging roads.

When cutting within 15 feet of powerlines the rules for working around powerlines apply.

Workers must not fall and buck trees when their vision is impaired by weather or darkness.



Who is the supervisor or qualified cutter to discuss safety issues with?

Who contacts the power company when it is necessary?

Who decides when flaggers are needed?

Mechanical falling:

The minimum distance between mechanical falling machines must be twice the height of the trees being fell

Manual falling:

Falling cuts must not be made in a standing tree while anybody is in the area where the tree could fall.



Domino falling is prohibited.

A worker must not:

Work under a lodged tree.

Cut a tree that another tree is lodged in.

Only qualified workers may fall danger trees.



An escape route must be determined and arranged before a tree is felled so the worker can move at least 25 feet.

Workers must not remain at the stump as the tree falls unless it is necessary to complete the backcut.

Once the backcut is completed the worker must immediately release the throttle and move to a safe location.

Trees must be felled into the open whenever practical.



Spring poles and limbs under stress must be cut in a way that releases the tension and other personnel must be in the clear as the cut is being made.



When trees or snags are over 6 inches DBH:

Undercuts must not be less than $\frac{1}{4}$ the diameter of the tree.

Face openings must not be less than $\frac{1}{5}$ the diameter of the tree.

Holding wood must not be completely cut through



What is the definition of domino falling?

Who is qualified to cut danger trees?

What would you call a danger tree?



Wedges:

Must be driven with a hammer or other suitable tool.

Two wedges must be immediately available when falling trees over 15 inches.



Bucking trees logs:

Cutters working together need to be aware of their location.

Only qualified workers must buck windfalls.



A worker must not buck a tree or log on the downhill side unless they:

Are in a safe location.

Block or secure the tree or log from rolling.

Logs that are not completely bucked through must be marked with hazard ribbon.

Two or more workers must not buck the same log at the same time.



Who is qualified to buck windfalls?

What do we use for danger ribbon?



Tree pulling:

A qualified person must determine if it is safe to pull a tree.

Positive communications must be maintained at all times between the tree-pulling machine operator and the person falling the tree. CB radios are not allowed.

An audible signal must be sounded when the initial pull is made on the tree and the line is tightened.

The tree pulling line must have a straight and direct path from the machine to the tree as possible.

The use of a siwash, in lieu of a block and strap for the purpose of changing the tree-pulling lead, is prohibited.

Who is qualified to determine if a tree is safe to pull?

What do we use to hook the line to the tree?

How do we communicate between the cutters and the tree-puller operator?