

# Canadian Birkebeiner Society

## Safe Practice Implementation Protocol #006 *Using chainsaws for deadfall removal on CLBPA trails*

Note: Overall guidelines for supervisor and workers responsibilities for SPIP development and implementation are presented in the introduction to Appendix II of the CBS HEM Manual.

### **Scope:**

This SPIP ensures that all CBS workers using chain saws are both certified as trained users and experienced chainsaw operators. All workers shall ensure that they use proper techniques and appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) when operating chainsaws.

**Required PPE:** Steel toed boots, long sleeved shirt, safety glasses, gloves, hard hat with face shield and ear muffs, ear plugs, chainsaw pants or chaps and reflective vest. A first aid kit must be available at the work site. Co-workers should carry whistles for alerting operators of possible hazards.

### **Recommended PPE:**

**Equipment required:** A fully operational and well -maintained chainsaw with a sharp chain.

**General Procedures:** Refer to manufacturer's specifications for the intended use of any particular model of chainsaw.

**Specific restrictions:** *CBS volunteers must be both experienced and formally certified for chainsaw use in CLBPA. Unless working under the direct supervision of Park's staff, CBS volunteers are not to fell standing trees or to attempt to remove "leaners". Chainsaw operation under CBS H&EM guidelines is limited to cutting and removal of deadfall that is obstructing trails being cleared by volunteer work crews.*

## Key Do's and Don'ts

### **Do**

- *Clear the area of any obstructions that could lead to tripping or lack of balance*
- *Add fuel and chain oil before starting and check tension of chain.*
- *Ensure other volunteers are clear of the work area when the saw is operating*
- *Work within your physical limits and don't operate saw if getting fatigued*
- *Buck deadfall into sections that can be removed without excess physical effort*

### **Don't**

- *Start gas powered saws close to point of refuelling*
- *Run saw when away from the work site*
- *Use saws with blunt chains*
- *Cut deadfall without ensuring that the cut tree sections are under control and using wedges to prevent bar jams*