

FIREWOOD BANK

VOLUNTEERING 101

A. PROPER SAFETY CLOTHING

- Closed toe shoes (No sneakers! Preferably boots.)
- Eye protection
- Gloves
- No loose clothing (to avoid being tangled in equipment)

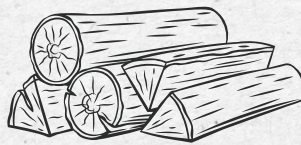


B. INTRODUCE EQUIPMENT & WORK AREA

1. Volunteers under 18 should not operate any dangerous equipment including chain saws and wood splitters.

2. Make sure your volunteers know the physical address at which they're working, who the safety contact is, and are aware of whether or not they have a phone signal. All of these are good things to know in case of emergency.

3. Does your volunteer know your mission? Sharing the mission and illustrating the heating need within the community gets volunteers to reflect on the energy needs of their neighbors and connect deeper to their work at the firewood bank. Having volunteers connect with the mission will also help reduce the stigma around those seeking heating aid.



4. Express the importance of keeping a processing site tidy- a cluttered work space is a more dangerous work space. This also means that more is not always better. Try to limit the amount of dangerous machinery operating at one time.

5. Make sure volunteers understand that there are many needs of a firewood bank, so their skills are wanted! Some may not like or be able to cut, split, or stack wood, but they *can* help with outreach, event management, wood lot management, or grants and paperwork. Everyone is welcome.

6. **Every firewood bank is unique.** The most important thing is to make sure volunteers are all on the same page. A cohesive and organized group of people can get a lot of things done while staying safe.