

# CHAINSAW TRAINING RESOURCES

## SAFE CHAINSAW HANDLING IS A LIFE SKILL

Build Confidence. Prevent Injury. Cut Smarter.

A little chainsaw knowledge makes firewood processing both easier and significantly safer. Review this list to find the best training opportunity for you and your firewood bank!



### IN PERSON TRAININGS

#### 1. Game of Logging (GOL)

Hands-on | In-Person | 4 Skill Levels | Scholarships Available

A respected national program teaching safe, effective chainsaw use with trainers around Northeast New England—ideal for anyone cutting firewood or felling trees.

Website: <https://www.gameoflogging.com>

#### 2. US Forest Service Sawyer Training

In-Person | Certification Program

For those working on public land or with formal firewood crews. Covers bucking, felling, risk assessment, and advanced saw work.

Website: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/trails/trail-management-tools/national-saw-program>

#### 3. SAWW (Safety and Woods Worker) Training

Hands-on | In-Person

Similar to GOL, with levels for beginners to professionals. Offered across the Midwest and Pacific Northwest.

Website: <https://sawwtraining.com/index.html>

#### 4. Women's Tree Climbing Workshop – Chainsaw Safety Courses

In-Person | Women-Led & Beginner Friendly

Empowering women and beginners to handle saws safely and confidently. Great for firewood bank volunteers and first-time users.

Website: <https://www.womenstreeclimbingworkshop.com>

#### 5. Red Ants Pants Foundation Women's Chainsaw Training

In-Person | Scholarships Available | 2 Skill Levels

Multi-day, sawyer training in Sulphur Springs, Montana. Led by prior trail crew members, land managers, fire fighters, and saw enthusiasts. This immersive course was designed by women, for women with Chainsaw 101 and Chainsaw Refresher courses available,

Website: <https://www.redantspantsfoundation.org/chainsaw>

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### **6. Local Cooperative Extension Trainings**

In-Person & Online | Regional Availability | Accredited & Free

Many state universities and conservation districts offer seasonal chainsaw safety classes. Here are some we found:

#### **University of Illinois Extension**

Offers hands-on Beginner Chainsaw Safety courses, focusing on safe chainsaw use, personal protective equipment (PPE), maintenance, and basic cutting techniques. These workshops are co-sponsored by the Savanna Institute and held at various Illinois locations.

#### **University of Kentucky – Pigman College of Engineering**

Provides a Chainsaw Hands-On Safety Training Course through its Technology Transfer Program. The course includes lectures and practical activities such as springpole cutting, carburetor adjustments, and chain filing. Participants are required to fell a tree as part of the training.

#### **West Virginia University Extension**

Offers a Chainsaw Safety and Felling course covering chainsaw ergonomics, design features, limbing, bucking, technical cutting, and felling techniques. This course is part of their broader Chainsaw & Tree Climbing Techniques program.

#### **Cornell Cooperative Extension**

Offers chainsaw safety information and training resources, focusing on safe operation during emergency situations and general use. Their materials include guidelines on selecting and maintaining chainsaws.

#### **University of Missouri Extension**

Missouri Forest Products Association and the Missouri Department of Conservation, conducts professional timber harvester training sessions around the state with 5-day course.

#### **Ohio State University Extension**

Offers periodic chainsaw safety courses with Ohio Forest Association, focusing on proper usage techniques and safety measures for operators.

#### **University of Arkansas Extension**

Provides chainsaw 4-hour online safety training as part of their Worker & Workplace Safety, emphasizing safe operation and maintenance practices for users.

#### **University of Washington**

Offers free chainsaw safety and maintenance training at the STIHL Northwest Training Center

#### **University of Wisconsin - Upham Woods Outdoor Learning Center**

One day in-person training with SAWW 1 and SAWW 2 courses available.

### **Know of another course near you?**

Alliance for Green Heat is here to support firewood programs with tools, training, and resources. Send us an email to let us know what to add!

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### ONLINE RESOURCES

#### 7. STIHL Chainsaw Safety Videos

Online | Free

Short, helpful videos on PPE, saw maintenance, cutting techniques, and safety basics.

Website: <https://www.stihlusa.com/information/safety/>

#### 8. OSHA Chainsaw Safety Resources

Online | Free | Translated Options Available

Guidelines for PPE, kickback prevention, workplace standards, and risk reduction.

Website/info: <https://www.osha.gov/publications/bytopic/chainsaw>

#### 9. Husqvarna Chainsaw Academy

Online | Free

Many sub categories of material featuring chainsaw safety and maintenance, planning and felling a tree, and limbing and crosscutting. Online printable resource.

Website/Info: <https://chainsawacademy.husqvarna.com/chainsaw-safety-basics/>

#### 10. Hard Hat Chainsaw Safety Training

Online | Bulk Discounts Available

90-120 minute online course is offered by trainers with 15+ experience and follows the most current OSHA standards.

Website/Info: <https://www.hardhattraining.com/safety-training/chainsaw-safety-training/>

### TRIBAL RESOURCES

#### 11. Tribal Council of California - Saw Skills/Maintenance & Field Operations

3-day | 2 Levels

Aims to establish basic use of gas-powered chainsaw skills by following National Wildfire Corporation Group S-212 curriculum and on-the-job style training.

Website/Info: <https://itccinc.org/t-step/trainings/>

#### 12. Lomakatsi Restoration Project

3-day | In-Person

Partners Tribes throughout Oregon and Northern California to provide tribal workforce training on ancestral lands.

Website/Info: <https://lomakatsi.org/what-we-do/tribal-partnerships/>