

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

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>

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>

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>

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>

Red Ants Pants Foundation Women's Chainsaw Training

In-Person | Scholarships Available | 2 Skill Levels

Multi-day, sawyer training in Sulphur White 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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IN-PERSON TRAININGS CONTINUED

Women in the Woods Workshop

Learn to operate your chainsaw safely, keep your forest healthy, reduce your wildfire risk, and identify forest wildflowers, shrubs, and trees. From beginner to expert, women forest landowners with all levels of experience are welcome. Montana DNRC organizes this event which takes place in May.

Contact: ashley.machus@mt.gov

Team Rubicon Chainsaw Training

Membership Based | Veteran and First Responder Support
Skillset trainings available for volunteers ready to serve with Team Rubicon. See website for more details.

Website: <https://teamrubiconusa.org/how-to-get-involved/build-your-skillset/training-events/>

Know of another course near you? We are here to support firewood programs with tools, training, and resources. Send us an email to let us know what to add!

Questions? Email info@forgreenheat.org

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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.

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LOCAL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION TRAININGS CONTINUED

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.

University of Idaho - Chainsaw Basics, Safety, Operation and Maintenance

Hands on experience, all Materials and supplies included. Multiple dates and locations throughout ID.

Montana State University Materials: Parts 1 & 2

How to Use a Chainsaw Safely – Part 2

How to Use a Chainsaw Safely – Part 1

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ONLINE RESOURCES

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/>

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>

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/>

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

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/>

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/>