Recreation Sites and Trails BC

Recreation Sites and Trails Operational Policy

Volunteers Utilizing Chainsaws and other Motorized Equipment

Updated March 2014

Explanatory Note: Agreement Holders who employ workers as defined in the *Workers Compensation Act* are subject to all requirements of that Act and all applicable requirements of the *Occupational Health and Safety Regulation*. This guidance document provides clarification on requirements for volunteers providing services according to the Agreement and who may not be subject to the Act or Regulations. It is the responsibility of the Agreement Holder to determine if their activities are subject to WorksafeBC requirements.

Purpose

Volunteers providing services under an agreement with Recreation Sites and Trails, often conduct trail and facility work that requires the use of chainsaws and other motorized equipment. The purpose of this policy is to provide direction on volunteers utilizing chainsaws, power tools, snowmobiles and other Off-Road Vehicles (ORV's).

Policy

Chain Saws: Operator must show proof of BC Forest Safety Council's Basic Chainsaw Operator Training course or Equivalent Qualification.

Volunteer must have experience safely operating other power tools being used (e.g. skill saw, brush cutters, lawn mowers).

Falling trees - Volunteer must be certified at the appropriate faller level by BC Forest Safety Council and must adhere to the province's Hand Falling Activities Guidelines.

If using ATV, operator must have sufficient training and/or expertise in operation of equipment being used.

If using snowmobile, operator must have sufficient training and/or expertise in operation of equipment being used.

If using boat, operator must show proof of Transport Canada Pleasure Craft License (if boat owner) and/or Pleasure Craft Operator Card.

Definitions

Equivalent Qualification: includes proof of completing a course similar to the BC Forest Council's course (http://www.bcforestsafe.org/basic_chainsaw) or the ability to demonstrate user is Qualified through a combination of experience and expertise.

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If it's determined that volunteers may not meet the "equivalent qualification" requirement, staff are encouraged to provide appropriate basic chainsaw training to volunteers if available locally.

Volunteer: "a person who freely undertakes to perform a specific service or function for a ministry that is not normally performed by employees and who does so without financial remuneration" (From BC Public Service Agency – Volunteer Policy 4.6).

Qualified: being knowledgeable of the work, the hazards involved and the means to control the hazards, by reason of education, training, experience or a combination thereof.

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Recreation Sites & Trail BC
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