



# GENERAL ORDER

Loudoun County Sheriff's Office

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<b>Chapter:</b> Operations	<b>Section:</b> 401.20	
<b>Subject:</b> Operational Functions	<b>Topic:</b> Chainsaw Operations	
<b>Accreditation:</b>	<b>Revised:</b>	<b>Reaffirmed:</b>
<b>Enacted:</b> 07/30/2015	<b>Last Review:</b> 07/24/2015	<b>Review:</b> 07/30/2016

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## I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this General Order is to establish guidelines for the proper use of agency-issued chainsaws, and a policy that mitigates the hazards associated with the use of an agency-issued chainsaw. This will assist in keeping roadways open and reducing the amount of time deputies conduct traffic control.

## II. POLICY

It is the policy of the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office that all agency-issued chainsaws be operated in a safe manner to minimize the risk of injury to deputies, citizens, and property. The procedures outlined in this General Order provide guidelines for chainsaw operators to follow while operating agency-issued chainsaws.

## III. PROCEDURES

### A. Training:

Prior to the operation of an agency-issued chainsaw, Sheriff's Office personnel shall attend and successfully complete an agency-approved training course. Additional training may be set up to ensure that all members remain proficient in its use.

### B. Operation:

1. The primary purpose for the use of a chainsaw by a deputy is to remove small-to-moderate obstructions from the travel portion of the roadway. Prior to using the chainsaw, the deputy must properly assess the hazard to ensure that it is not too large to remove without additional assistance/equipment. These include, but are not limited to:
  - a. Trees
  - b. Limbs
  - c. Shrubs
  - d. Other wooden obstacles

2. The operator shall inspect the chainsaw prior to utilizing it and upon completion of use. At a minimum, the following should be inspected:
  - a. Front handle (handlebar)
  - b. Rear handle
  - c. Throttle trigger
  - d. Throttle trigger lockout
  - e. Chain
  - f. Bar
  - g. Chain Brake (Ensure it is off while in operation)
3. It is recommended that the operator of an agency-issued chainsaw have a spotter/backup unit while operating the chainsaw.
4. It shall be the operator's discretion as to whether or not an obstacle is safe to be cut and removed. Each obstacle shall be evaluated prior to attempting to remove it. At a minimum, operators will conduct a 360-degree scene survey to eliminate any potential hazards. Operators will also ensure that they look at overhanging trees or other overhead items to ensure that there are no hanging/falling hazards.
5. Under no circumstances shall the operator attempt to remove obstacles that are touching electric/power lines.
6. No one shall use the chainsaw for any other purposes beyond what is prescribed in this General Order unless approved by a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant or above.

**C. Personal Protective Equipment**

1. The operator of any chainsaw shall wear personal protective equipment (PPE) while operating any chainsaw. This equipment includes, but is not limited to, all of the following:
  - a. Helmet
  - b. Eye Protection
  - c. Hearing Protection
  - d. Protective Chaps
  - e. Gloves

- f. Boots (steel-toed boots are preferred, but not required)
2. The operator shall inspect the PPE prior to utilizing it and upon completion of use. The following should be inspected:
  - a. Chaps (should be serviceable with no tears/holes)
  - b. Helmet system (must be functional with no holes, tears or missing pieces)
3. If any equipment is found to be unusable or unsafe, it shall immediately be placed out-of-service. The respective Station Commander shall be notified in person or via written note or email that the equipment is out-of-service and the reason for that status.

**D. Storage and Maintenance**

1. Only approved fuel and oil shall be used in agency-issued chainsaws.
  - a. Ensure fuel tank and oil reservoir are full prior to use.
2. Chainsaws will be stored in the out building/garage areas of each station, where applicable, when not signed out.
3. Chainsaws will be transported in the issued hard cases.
4. The operator must clean off any debris from the chainsaw after use.
5. Chainsaws will be inspected monthly by the Station Commander or his/her designee.
  - a. Fuel, oil purchases and repairs are to be purchased by the respective station or division where the equipment is assigned.
  - b. Whenever possible, repairs are to be done by TW Perry in Leesburg.

**E. Miscellaneous**

1. Any injuries incurred as a result of the use of the chainsaw shall be reported to the deputy's immediate supervisor or other on-duty supervisor.
2. Usage of agency-issued chainsaws must be documented in the station's equipment sign-out log.