



Unit C: Forest Management

Lesson 7: Applying Safe Practices in Forest Management

Terms

- Kickback

Potential Hazards in Forest Management

- Safety is an issue that should be of concern for any one involved in the forestry industry.
- Anytime that a person enters the forest there are hazards.

Some of the potential hazards are:

1. Falling branches
2. Bees and hornets
3. Stinging nettle, briars, and thorns
4. Chainsaw kickback -

Kickback

- Kickback is the sudden, unexpected upward and backward movement of the chain and guide bar.
- It occurs when the cutting teeth on the chain or the chain itself catches or binds in the cut.
- Because the chain is moving at very high speeds, if the chain or teeth strike a hard substance, or get pinched in the cut, the whole saw will move with great force.

Some ways to avoid kickback are:

- 1. Avoid cutting with the tip or upper quarter of the bar.
- 2. Use a tip guard that covers the end of the bar.
- 3. Operate the saw in the correct cutting position, stand at an angle to the saw so that if a kickback were to occur the saw would miss your head and neck.

Some ways to avoid kickback are:

- 4. Keep both hands on the saw while cutting. Keep your left elbow stiff. This will help prevent the saw from striking you should it kickback.
- 5. Don't use a chainsaw to cut wood from old buildings, unless you are absolutely sure that all nails, screws, or other metal objects have been removed.

Safety Equipment Used in Forest Management

- There are many pieces of safety equipment that a forester should have on hand and know how to properly use.



Some of the basics are:

- Hardhat – A hardhat protects the forester's head from falling limbs, branches, and even the fruits of some trees.



Some of the basics are:

- Safety glasses – These provide eye protection from low branches and shrubs when following a compass line.
- They also help keep shaving and saw dust out of the eye of a chainsaw operator.



Some of the basics are:

- Long-sleeved shirts – These are needed to provide protection to the skin from insect bites and from poisonous plants, such as poison ivy, poison oak, and poison sumac.



Some of the basics are:

- Heavy trouser or chaps – These items protect the legs from stinging nettle, briars, and thorns.
- Special chaps should be worn when operating a chainsaw to provide extra protection against injury.



Some of the basics are:

- High-top boots – This type of boot should be worn to provide good ankle support to reduce the chance of injury.



Some of the basics are:

- First-aid kit – A properly supplied first-aid kit should always be on hand when working in the forest.



Review / Summary

1. Identify potential hazards in forest management.
2. Identify safety equipment used in forest management.