

Ice Age Trail Alliance, Inc. (IATA)
Policy: Power Equipment Operator Requirements
Approved: 1.25.08
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Related Policies: NPS/WDNR/USFS

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1.0 Background and Purpose

Power equipment tools are used along the Ice Age Trail for trail construction, maintenance and land stewardship purposes. These tools provide a means to efficiently maintain or remove vegetation within the trail corridor and trailway lands. Power equipment, as defined herein, includes, but is not limited to push mowers (nylon- or metal-bladed), brush cutters (nylon- or metal-bladed), power pruners and chainsaws.

The use of power equipment presents a clear and present danger to the user and anyone in close proximity. Moving parts, flying debris and falling trees are inherent hazards associated with power tool use. In addition, trail work often occurs in places that are distant from professional medical care.

The use of power equipment brings with it a responsibility that operators protect themselves and those working with them from injury. The IATA stands to minimize the likelihood of serious medical and liability claims if staff and volunteers follow a few required and recommended safety procedures.

The National Park Service (NPS) has instituted chainsaw safety requirements from tort liability to paying medical expenses for injuries that govern volunteer eligibility for Federal insurance coverage under the Volunteers-In-Parks and Volunteers-in-Forest (United States Forest Service administered lands) program. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) has instituted safety policies for chainsaw and other power equipment operated on state-owned lands by non-department employees. This policy will bring a standard measure of safety requirements to the organization and is intended to satisfy IATA partner (NPS and WDNR) requirements.

2.0 Authority for This Policy

Authority for this policy is provided by the IATA bylaws and corporate law.

3.0 Power Equipment Requirements

3.1 IATA staff and volunteers who operate Power Equipment on the Ice Age Trail, or on trailway lands along the Ice Age Trail regardless of land ownership, must wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment per the table below.

3.2 Any IATA staff member or volunteer who operates a chainsaw on the Ice Age Trail or on trailway lands along the Ice Age Trail, regardless of land ownership, must have taken approved chainsaw safety training within the last three years and should be able to provide proof of having done so.

3.3 Chainsaw Operators/Crews will have a portable fire extinguisher and a Logger First-Aid kit within a reasonable distance of the worksite.

3.4 Operators will maintain current First Aid and CPR certification and have in their possession and know how to use appropriate communication equipment, e.g., cell phones and two-way radios, in case of injury.

<i>Minimum PPE required</i>	Brush cutter (hand-held)	Push mower (whip or metal blade)	Chainsaw†	Power pruner†
Hard Hat	No	No	Yes	Yes
Ear Protection	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Face/Eye Protection	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Gloves (leather)	Yes	Yes	Yes, or cut-resistant	Yes
High-Visibility Vest or Jacket	No	No	Yes	Yes
Leg Protection	Leather, nylon, or canvas	Leather, nylon, or canvas	OSHA-approved minimum 4-layer cut-resistant	OSHA-approved minimum 4-layer cut-resistant
Protective Footwear	Leather boots	Leather boots	Cut-resistant steel-toe boots or steel-toe boots with cut-resistant overlay	Cut-resistant steel-toe boots or steel-toe boots with cut-resistant overlay
Training Required	No	No	FISTA, or other OSHA-compliant	No

† Must meet OSHA 29 CFR requirements. OSHA-approved Kevlar, Ballistic nylon and Engtex 4-6 layer materials are acceptable.

4.0 Safety-First Strategies

Volunteer trail workers are advised to practice the following:

4.1 Have adequate training, knowledge and experience to operate power or non-powered equipment to perform the task at hand.

4.2 Practice safe tool use, storage and transport.

4.3 Inform someone where you are going and when you plan to return.

4.4 When operating power equipment work with a partner or in teams of three.

4.5 Have a cell phone and/or two-way radio and first-aid kit on-site.

4.6 Staff and volunteers who lead on-the-ground IATA events, including hikes and educational presentations, should prepare and have available a Project Safety Net indicating, at minimum: emergency medical services contact information, directions to the nearest medical facility from the event location, and known hazards that may be encountered while volunteering on that specific segment of the Ice Age Trail.

4.7 All IATA staff will maintain current certification in basic First Aid and CPR trainings.

4.8 Volunteers and outing leaders will be encouraged by staff and supported financially as able by the organization and the organizations volunteer chapters to be certified in basic Chainsaw Safety, First Aid and CPR training(s).

5.0 Sawyer Recognition

All IATA staff and volunteers who show proof of F.I.S.T.A or other approved chainsaw safety training and meet the requirements outlined in Section 3.0 will be presented with a certification card indicating the date and expiration of their training(s).