Minimum Recommended Equipment List for Crosscut Saw Class DBC 11/2012

A full complement of tools allows students to use the right tools for the job. A variety of tools allows them to appreciate differences, develop preferences, think critically about how the job is done and gain respect for the skills and traditions of using crosscut saws.

The instructor should ensure that a there is a variety of saws and tools for students to try out and become familiar with and also that are enough saws and tools so the students can be assigned into fully outfitted sawyer teams for practice and evaluation. Students should bring saws and tools that they have available and the instructor should fill in the rest. All tools should be in good functioning order. It is not acceptable to conduct a class with dull saws, loose headed axes, broken saw handles, etc.

Saws: saws should be clean, sharp and tuned (though there can be benefit to having a dull saw to contrast with the sharp ones)

- ✓ at least one felling saw
- ✓ 2 or more bucking saws, with varying tooth patterns.
- ✓ 2 or more 'D' handle saws with varying tooth patterns.
- ✓ One saw should be of 6' length or greater.
- ✓ There should be saws with at least 3 different tooth patterns.
- ✓ Two saws should be similar in length and style, but with different tooth patterns.

Handles: students should learn to appreciate that different handle designs exert different forces on the saw.

- ✓ at least one set of functioning 'loop' style handles
- ✓ at least one set of vintage 'pin' style handle
- ✓ a set of 'flicker forge' handles (or photos and information)
- ✓ helper handles for the 'D' handle saws

Saw Sheaths: Every saw that will be used for field practice must have a sheath.

- ✓ fire hose sheath with appropriate string or strap fasteners
- ✓ rigid sheath with appropriate fasteners
- ✓ plywood 'sandwich box' or equivalent for transporting saws
- ✓ shoulder strap or other method for carrying saws

Wedges: Emphasize that wedges are always essential for the job. Each saw team should have a minimum of 6 wedges.

- ✓ Single taper 'felling' wedge for example
- ✓ Double taper wedges of different lengths up to 12 or 14"
- ✓ wedges modified to work in narrow kerfs of crosscut saws
- ✓ metal tie wedges or hanging wedges
- ✓ wedge pouches
- ✓ wedge driving tool - hammer or single bit axe

Saw Lubricant/solvent:

✓ There should be several types of lube/solvent available for comparison. These can include diesel, kerosene, citrus based solvent, WD-40, mineral (baby)oil, GooGone.

Any lube/solvent used should be tested to make sure it is not corrosive to metal. Information and MSDS should be available for each type. Lube solvents should be in original containers or decanted and labeled in appropriate containers. Small amounts can be decanted into labeled flip top or squirt bottles for field use.

Axes: Axes and chopping skills need to be good enough to chop through a log.
✓ single bit ax sharpened properly
✓ double bit ax sharpened properly
✓ at least one ax should have a good wood handle with the right grain
✓ Should have at least one ax with a full 36" handle and one shorter.
✓ variety of ax sheaths. Each ax must have a sheath.

Underbucker:
✓ Have at least one mechanical underbucker and pictures of others.
It is preferable to have a few types: vintage, modern, flat shaft, round shaft.

have a clamp-on ax handle underbucker, or pictures, and an ax it works with.

Small saw: Saws can be much safer than axes for limbing and swamping.
✓ variety of 6" - 20" pruning saws. Folding, straight or bow saws with sheaths.

Shovel:
There are other digging tools that can also be useful, but nothing takes the place of :
✓ a shovel.

Other tools: The instructor should bring or at least discuss some of the many other tools that can be useful for a saw team. These include: Peavey, pry bar, light block and tackle, straps, pulaski, loppers, bark spud, cant hook, etc.

First Aid Kit: Provide a list of what is required for a sawyer team first aid kit.

PPE: show what is required as well as other options. Hearing protection should NOT be used.