

Risk Assessment Worksheet		1. Project/Incident/Work Activity: Crosscut Saw Use			2. Location: Los Padres National Forest					
3. Specific Objective: General Crosscut Saw Use		4. Name and Title of Preparer: Eric Verdries, Captain			5. Date Prepared: Wednesday, February 24, 2021					
6. Risk Decision Authority: The risk decision authority block should be signed after the worksheet is completed. Use the Risk Decision Authority matrix to determine the authorization required to sign in block 6.										
Signature:		Title: Forest Supervisor			Date: June 2, 2026 (Reviewed by Bruce Gunther -Safety Manager) See "Additional FLT Comments" on routing slip					
Identify Hazards		Assess Hazards		Risk Control Options	Residual Risk		Decision	Implement		
7. Task	8. Hazard	9. Hazard Probability	10. Severity / Consequence	11. RAC	12. Identify hazard mitigations & abatement measures (press [alt + enter] to add a line)	13. Hazard Probability	14. Severity / Consequence	15. RAC	16. Task Necessary?	17. Hazard Control Assigned to:
Training Requirements	Personal Injury	Possible	Critical	High	Unless specifically stated this analysis applies to the crosscut sawyer. Successful completion of the MDTC Cross cut saw course. Certified in basic first-aid and CPR or an individual who is qualified in basic first-aid and CPR is available in project area and is not operating a saw. An uncertified crosscut cut saw helper needs to have specific on-site instruction in tool handling and safety prior to assisting sawyer. Crosscut operators shall be properly certified prior to operation and will adhere to any restrictions or limitations placed upon them. Crosscut operators may only exceed the restrictions or limitations placed on them if they are under the supervision of a qualified individual who is certified at a higher level of saw operation. For the purposes of training, additional individuals besides the saw operator may be allowed with-in a 2 ½ times tree height radius if under supervision of a qualified instructor.	Possible	Moderate	Moderate	YES	
Personal Protective Equipment	Cuts, Eye Injuries	Likely	Moderate	High	Appropriate gloves (cut resistant for sharpening), hardhat, long sleeve shirt, chaps(recommended to overlap top of boots 2"), Boots-8" high with skid resistant soles. and eye protection. Proper PPE must be worn at all times. An ax and adequate wedges are deemed safety equipment that must be available for all sawing operations.	Possible	Moderate	Moderate	YES	

Crosscut saw: General	Cuts	Possible	Moderate	Moderate	Crosscut saws have only one operator who is entirely responsible for sawing even when a helper or second sawyer is used. Must have a proper covering sheath for all the cutting teeth. Must be sheathed when not in use. Must have good working handles. Saws must be sharp and in serviceable condition.	Possible	Negligible	Low	YES	
Crosscut - Transporting	Cuts	Possible	Moderate	Moderate	Ensure saw is sheathed when transporting. Handles should be removed if moving through thick vegetation to prevent snagging. If transporting by pack stock: Bend in a horseshoe shape with teeth pointed backwards. Secured saw to the middle of the pack saddle. Saw should be on lead animal.	Unlikely	Negligible	Low	YES	
Communications	Injury or cuts	Possible	Moderate	Moderate	Must have established means of communication, i.e., yelling, radio, hand signals, etc. Communications must be clear, concise and understood by everyone involved.	Unlikely	Negligible	Low	YES	
Escape routes	Injury or cuts	Possible	Moderate	Moderate	All bucking, limbing and felling operations require clean escape routes with a minimum 20 foot path before starting to cut. Choose an escape path that extends diagonally away from the expected felling line and always have an alternate retreat path to a safety zone. Where two fallers are operating a crosscut saw each must have separate escape routes if exiting the stump at the same time.	Possible	Moderate	Moderate	YES	
Weather/Darkness	Injury or cuts	Possible	Moderate	Moderate	Do not saw during high winds, electrical storms or other hazardous weather. Do not conduct felling operations if the tops or the 2 1/2 tree length safety circle is obscured by darkness, smoke, fog or any other condition.	Possible	Moderate	Moderate	YES	

Size Up	Injury, cuts or Death	Possible	Moderate	Moderate	Size up the tree considering the tree species, height, diameter, lean, soundness, current and previous fire damage, split or broken top, widow makers, and other hazard tree indicators. Bore tree if necessary to determine soundness. Walk anticipated lay of tree and check for hazards. Clear work area of hazards and obstructions. Determine and clear primary and secondary escape routes. Ensure that area 2 1/2 times the height of the tree to be felled is clear of personnel. Be alert for environmental conditions that could increase risk. (strong/gusty winds, steep slopes, etc.) Ensure adequate traffic control measures are taken on roads and trails. If the identified tree cannot be safely removed and presents a hazard, the area will be flagged off at a safe distance and an alternate mitigation used.	Possible	Moderate	Moderate	YES	
Felling Process	Head Injury, Eye Injury, Cuts, Amputation, Crushing Injuries, and Death	Possible	Moderate	Moderate	Only those crosscuts operators that have been certified at the appropriate level with conduct crosscut felling operations. No employee shall approach a faller closer than 2-1/2 tree lengths of trees being felled until the faller has acknowledged that it is safe to do so, unless it is demonstrated that a team of employees is necessary to manually fell a particular tree. Follow proper felling procedure as outlined in MTDC crosscut course. Initiate undercut at a level that ensures adequate footing and balance throughout cutting sequence. Prior to starting the back cut, survey the area to ensure that nobody has entered the area. A warning should be sounded as to the intentions of your actions. (i.e. "tree coming down, sidehill"). At the first sign of the tree committing to the undercut proceed to safety zone. No felling operations will be conducted at night or during times the top of tree being felled is obscured.	Unlikely	Moderate	Low	YES	
Bucking / Limbing	Injury or cuts	Possible	Moderate	Moderate	Anticipate log tensions and compressions. Watch for and carefully relieve tension on saplings and limbs (springpoles) with a series of small cuts to compression side. Use wedges. Use caution when cutting limbs supporting logs off the ground. Avoid finishing cuts from downhill side. Sound warning for all objects moving downhill. Do not buck logs on steep slopes with people below. Ensure escape route.	Possible	Moderate	Moderate		
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