

Who is the course for?

Anyone using a chainsaw to fell small trees for work or domestic purposes. Operators who work for certain organizations (e.g. Network Rail or the Forestry Commission), or who wish to continue to felling trees over 200mm, or to use a chainsaw in trees should attend the five-day maintenance cross cutting and felling small trees training course in preparation for the NPTC assessment.

Course Outline

4 days for novice or less experienced users.

3 days for people looking for a refresher who already hold a certificate

Includes assessment at end of course; practical assessment with short questions

Takes place in workshop on first day; second, third & fourth days in woodland.

The course covers

- Identify the necessary personal protective equipment required, report on its condition and locate the various standard marks
- Identify required health and safety features on a chainsaw
- Prepare the chainsaw for use with the correct fuel/oil mix and chain lubrication
- Start the chainsaw from both cold and hot in a safe manner
- Carry out pre-cutting safety tests - and state the procedures if the chainsaw fails these tests
- State the possible hazards/risks when carrying out maintenance or operational tasks
- Organise site safety and state the procedures required
- Identify faults and defects on a chainsaw and decide which you can sort yourself and which will need the help of a service engineer
- Select and identify the correct tools to enable maintenance and report on their serviceability
- Carry out all routine maintenance in accordance with the manufacturer's instruction book and/or the Lantra Awards workbook
- Cross-cut timber accurately to required lengths
- Assess and explain the terms 'tension' and 'compression' in timber
- Adopt safe procedures to remove a trapped guide bar
- Handle and stack timber in a safe manner.
- Assess trees to be felled for hazards and associated risks
- Prepare trees to be felled and identify escape routes
- Fell trees which have a diameter up to 200mm/8" safely and accurately using appropriate techniques
- Remove branches from felled trees in a safe and methodical manner
- Select and use hand tools and maintain them in a safe condition
- Take down hung-up trees using hand tools
- State techniques which must not be used for the takedown of hung-up trees.

What should you bring to the course?

Full Personal Protective Equipment:

Chainsaw helmet (with mesh visor & ear defenders) to EN 397 and within manufacturers' date recommendations (usually 3 years). Mesh Visor to EN1731 or safety glasses to EN166 and Hearing protection to EN352

Chainsaw gloves CE stamped for chainsaw use (EN 381-7)

Steel toe-capped **chainsaw** work boots, CE stamped for chainsaw use to EN 345-2 – wellington style or forestry boots.

Chainsaw trousers CE stamped for chainsaw use – Class 1 / type C – EN 381-5 Full, all round protection with no damage to fibres. Full protection types are compulsory for tree climbing or inexperienced ground users, Type A are permitted for experienced ground users only.

Jacket protective chainsaw jackets are now widely available and recommended for tree work but not compulsory – all upper body clothing should be non-sag

Chainsaw (maximum recommended guide bar length 380mm 15", over 40cc in good working order with

Chainsaw Maintenance, Cross Cutting and Felling to 200mm

the manual) Please make sure that the chain on the saw **is new or nearly new**, if in doubt bring a spare chain with the supplied box

Tool kit to include sharp files, knock-in vice, depth gauge, raker (guide bar cleaner), plug spanner & screwdrivers, felling lever. Fuel/2 stroke & Chain Oil.

The above – excluding jackets - can be hired for the course.

5 metre tape –for measuring felled timber – a cheap one is ok

Personal First Aid Kit. We strongly recommend that all chainsaw users undertake suitable first aid training.

Non-sag outer clothing

Please bring packed lunch and drinks for each day and sufficient warm clothing & wet weather gear to allow for weather conditions. Sun protection is advised for those rare occasions that we see it – minimum recommended is SPF 15 but this can be higher depending on skin type.

Certificates



Lantra Certificate of Competence
Refresher Training is recommended
about every 5 years

For individuals

Come and join us at our next 'open course' - please contact us for details or check our website for dates and prices

For Groups

Please ask for more details if you would like us to come to your site.

All trainees must be over 16 years of age and be “physically fit”. Anyone under the age of 18 can only use a chainsaw under the supervision of a certificated operator. Persons with certain ailments or on certain medication may not be able to take part in the practical sessions.

First Aid training is strongly recommended by the HSE.

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