

Power Saw Maintenance

Changing Blades and Chains

Objectives: To perform routine and emergency scene blade changing on rotary and chain saw equipment using available equipment and blade/chain types used by department.

Purpose: Trying to figure out how to change a wood cutting blade to a metal cutting blade on a rotary saw is not something you should be doing on the fireground. Changing cutting blades and chains requires an advanced knowledge of the equipment, tools and procedures necessary to complete this task in a timely fashion. Routine maintenance procedures include inspection of safety equipment and any guards that are on the equipment. Review of department and manufacturer procedures for blade and chain use are required as part of this session.

Description: Discuss the application of various blades and chains used by department. Review what blades are used on what type of material and how to determine if a chain is in a sharp and useable condition. Locate all equipment used for blade and chain changing on apparatus and review the use of all equipment. Practice changing blades and chains and demonstrate how to check for all proper tightness and settings.

Prerequisite Knowledge/Skills

Blade types, building material types and methods. Location of tools, blades and saws.

Evaluation Criteria

- Blades are changed according to manufacturer and department recommendations
- Safety equipment is checked and appropriate level of PPE is in use
- Member knows what blades and chains are used for specific types of building materials

Recommended Maximum Time

Time standard to be established by department

Safety

Use all protective equipment and guards
Caution when checking and using fluids

Sample Procedure

**** See manufacturer instructions for this session.**

