



Chainsaw Training (MSHA Task Training)

Does the operation of a chainsaw need MSHA documented training? The answer to that question is yes. In the past few years mine personnel in the United States have died do to the standard operation of using a chainsaw to clear trees at mine facilities. Since it is clear to MSHA that this task is very dangerous to an untrained person it is the requirement of a mine site to make sure its personnel that is about to perform this procedure has had adequate training. Tom Thelen is the company's designated trainer for this machine and all the training and certifying for the task training. So before anyone on the mine cite ever picks up a chainsaw to operate it, you must first have had task training from Tom, as well as his ok to do so. It is against Federal Regulations to do so otherwise, it is required that you receive this training before performing work.

What is task training and how does it apply to you? Simply put; it is that you receive training for any type of task that is dangerous. Is using a hammer considered to be dangerous (maybe depending on who is wielding it), or is using a screw driver dangerous, No. So these types of thing would not need a written document saying that you know how to use a hammer or screw driver, but how about a machine that weighs 45 ton and travels 15 to 20 mph (like a Volvo dump truck), now that is very dangerous if the operator does not have proper training to run that piece of equipment. How about going into any area that has poor ventilation, and restricted access (confined space); does this need to have task training, and the answer is yes. This task is very dangerous and need to have some thought put into it before someone enters this kind of area.

This is why you should be very aware of what task you are about to perform and have you ever received training to perform it. If you have not, you should not perform the work until you have talked to Tom, Evan, Dan, or I to get you properly trained.

If you have any question pertaining to task training, or for that matter any kind of training; please don't hesitate to ask any one of us to clarify a question that you may have.

Thanks & have a safe week