

## CHAINSAW SAFETY, MAINTENANCE and SAFE OPERATION TRAINING

- ◆ Identifying safety and other features on chainsaws
- ◆ Describing hazards and safe operating procedures
- ◆ Preparing to operate a chainsaw
- ◆ Starting and testing a chainsaw
- ◆ Using a chainsaw to make cuts safely
- ◆ Sharpening and maintaining a chainsaw
- ◆ Safety equipment and clothing
- ◆ Safe firewood cutting techniques
- ◆ Proper tree felling techniques

The program consists of a series of 3 separate hands-on, day-long clinics known as Levels 1, 2 and 3. Occasional users will want to take at least Levels 1 and 2. More serious cutters will want to take Level 3 as well.

**Level 1** consists of an in-the-woods training clinic, emphasizing the use of personal protective equipment such as gloves, chaps, helmet, etc. The basics of directional felling of smaller trees will be applied at this level.

The plunge or bore cutting method is taught. Proper use of wedges will be emphasized.

Every participant develops a cutting plan and fells a tree under the guidance of the instructor. Participants will also learn techniques for bucking logs to minimize time spent freeing pinched bars.

**Level 2** consists of getting to know your chainsaw and its preventative maintenance requirements. Participants bring their own saws. The day begins with a timed cut through a log to evaluate each saw's performance.

Proper sharpening techniques, bar maintenance tips, and the features that make one chain different from another are among the things you will learn. After working on your saws, the day ends with a comparative cut through a log. Level 2 stresses preventative maintenance tips that even longtime users never learned.



**Level 3** consists of applying the safety and directional felling techniques you learned in Level 1, and more, to felling larger and more difficult trees with the use of wedges



photo by Dave Genaway

One-on-one training is provided by an instructor certified by the Ohio Forestry Association's C-SAW (Chainsaw Safety Awareness Program). These classes are also in line with OSHA standards of safety. Local logger, Brock Couture of Couture Forestry Services provides the training. Certificates of completion are provided to each participant.

Currently the cost to attend is \$60.00 per level for NEOFA members. Non-members pay \$80.00 for Level 1 and \$60.00 for Levels 2 & 3.

The Northeastern Ohio Forestry Association (NEOFA) is an organization most of whose members are individuals who own woodlands and who are interested in the principles of conservation and the practice of good forest management. The organization was organized in 1972 and in 1976 was incorporated as a non-profit Ohio corporation.

**This chainsaw safety, maintenance and tree felling program is not designed to make firewood cutters into professional loggers. The program emphasizes safety, planning and caution. By incorporating these principles into your cutting routine, you will become a more confident and safety conscious chainsaw user, and hopefully, a more active manager of your woodlot. That's our goal in providing the program.**



### SPRINGPOLES

Dangerous trees that are pulled over and their tops are held down by other fallen trees

Learn to safely cut spring poles and clean up blow downs



Learn to efficiently buck logs into firewood without pinching your saw



### BARBER CHAIR

Incorrect notch and hinge cut creates stress on a tree causing it to split vertically

Learn how to avoid the "barber chair" accident

For more information or to sign-up for future clinics, contact the Northeastern Ohio Forestry Association (NEOFA) by calling the following members:  
Dave Hively @ 330-332-0728 or  
Jim Elze @ 330-337-8974.



Learn proper saw sharpening and bar maintenance



**SAFETY**  
**PLANNING**  
**CAUTION**

# CHAINSAW TRAINING

## SAFETY, MAINTENANCE, TREE FELLING and FIREWOOD CUTTING



The Northeastern Ohio Forestry Association provides an annual series of chainsaw safety, chainsaw maintenance, and tree felling clinics for firewood cutters and woodland owners who want to take a more active role in managing their woodlots.