

Montague Wood Bank Volunteer Task Information

Overview: The volunteer task information form provides platform to develop a clear understanding between volunteers and a wood bank safety coordinator of potential health and safety conflicts which are likely to be encountered given the nature firewood processing work.

The information form and attachments should be provided to each volunteer. The signed copy should be retained in the wood bank records.

Volunteer:		
Safety Coordinator:		
Task:	Splitting Firewood with Power Tools	
Location:	Processing/Storage Yard	
Description of Task:	Splitting firewood is necessary to properly dry and burn firewood in a wood stove. Volunteers will gather bucked wood rounds and utilize powered log splitters to split rounds into appropriate sized firewood before placing in a wheel barrow or pile.	
Overview of Hazards:	Outdoor work, uneven walking surfaces with obstructions, manual lifting, using a powered hydraulic ram, loud noises, other people using tools and equipment.	
Personal Protective Equipment:	Gloves, Foot Protection, Eye Protection, Hearing Protection	
Additional Trainings to be Completed: (See Attached)		
	Volunteer Initials	Coordinator Initials
1. Manufacturers Manuals	1.	1.
2. Weight Estimation and Safe Lifting Techniques	2.	2.
3. Power Splitter Tool Use and Care	3.	3.
4. Firewood Split Sizes	4.	4.
5. Working around Power and Heavy Equipment	5.	5.
Volunteer Signature:		
Date:		
Safety Coordinator Signature:		
Date:		

See Page 2 and 3 for Hazard and Risk Management Details

Hazards for Splitting Firewood with Power Tools

**General Hazard
Descriptions:**

Weather: Task is conducted outside. Volunteer should be familiar with outdoor hazards such as heat, cold, insect bites/stings, snow, and rain.

Slips, Trips, and Falls: Volunteers will be exposed to uneven walking surfaces, wood rounds in work area, and piles of firewood.

Loud noises: Log splitters are powered by an internal combustion engine

Manual Lifting: Volunteers will be exposed to wood rounds exceeding 50 lbs. in weight. Volunteer may need to lift a round under 50 lbs. in weight from grade to the bed of a splitter with a height of not more than 4'.

Cuts/Punctures: Firewood has rough surfaces and splinters which may become lodged in a hand.

Burns: Engine and hydraulic system components will become hot when in use. Catastrophic failure of hydraulic system may spray hot hydraulic oil on the operator.

High Pressure Fluid: Hydraulic logs splitters use pressurized fluid to complete work. A leak or system failure may put operator in contact with hydraulic oil which could be directly injected into the body through the skin.

Crushing/Pinching: Wood rounds may roll or fall while volunteer is moving them around the worksite/splitter hitting their foot, hand, or other part of body. Split firewood may slip out of volunteer's hand or fall off a pile/wheel barrow/splitter hitting their foot, hand, or other part of body. A finger, hand, or other body part could become pined by the moving splitter ram during operation.

Hand Tools: Volunteer will be working in proximity with others operating hand tools.

Power tools: Volunteer will be working with gas powered log splitters.

Heavy Equipment: Volunteer may be working in an area where heavy equipment may be operating including equipment such as motor vehicles, front end loaders, backhoes, and skidsteers

Notes:

Risk Management for Transporting and Stacking Split Firewood

Risk Management Actions

Physical/ Mental Fitness for the Task: Volunteers should arrive well rested, mentally focused, and able to complete the task as described.

Communication: Volunteer is responsible for establishing communication with others in the area prior to starting work to maintain a safe work distance. Volunteers should feel comfortable communicating with one another and the wood bank coordinator.

Weather: Volunteer should be dressed appropriately for outdoor work and bring items that they need to be comfortable conducting manual labor.

Slips, Trips, and Falls: Volunteer will make an effort to keep work area clear of trip hazards such as wood rounds and firewood pieces. Footwear should have a non-slip tread.

Loud noises: Volunteer is responsible for wearing hearing protection when powered splitter is operating.

Cuts/Punctures: Volunteers will also wear leather or rubberized work gloves when handling wood to protect against cuts and splinters.

Manual Lifting: Volunteers will use appropriate lifting techniques referenced in the "Weight Estimation and Safe Lifting Techniques (part 2)" module.

Crushing/Pinching: Volunteers will wear appropriate footwear with "safety toes" or an overshoe guard to protect against rolling wood rounds or falling firewood. Volunteers will use appropriate techniques for operating powered log splitters referenced in the operator manual as well as in the "Power Splitter Tool Use and Care" module.

Burns: Volunteer will avoid contact with engine components which may become hot. Volunteer will visually inspect the hydraulic system prior to use. If the system is not in good working order the volunteer will discontinue its use and notify the safety coordinator.

High Pressure Fluid: Volunteer will wear safety glasses when operating equipment. Volunteer will visually inspect the hydraulic system prior to use. If the system is not in good working order the volunteer will discontinue its use and notify the safety coordinator.

Power tools: Volunteers may be working in proximity with other individuals operating power tools such as chainsaws and log splitters. Volunteers must maintain a safe distance from others. Communication between both the volunteer and others must be established prior to starting or continuing work.

Heavy Equipment: Before starting work in an area with equipment present notify an equipment operator of your intent to work in the area. Stay clear of the area when equipment is in use and locate yourself in an area where the operator can see you. Never stand behind or under equipment.

1. Manufacturer's Manuals

- Volunteers will be provided with the manufacturers manual for each piece of equipment they intend to use and will attest to having read the manual before using the machine

2. Weight Estimation and Safe Lifting Techniques

- Wood is deceptively heavy when it is green to do the excess water stored in wood. The Safety coordinator will show volunteers a wood round that weights approximately 50 lbs. (16"x dia. 11") to familiarize them with estimating their ability to manually lift pieces of wood.
 - What to do when wood is too heavy. Roll to a lifting device or break up in pieces.
 1. Rolling to a lifting device passes wood off from hand splitting to power splitting.
 2. Demonstrate and observe volunteer breaking large rounds with sledge/maul and wedges.
 - Demonstrate lifting wood from the ground using bent knees and a straight back.
 - Demonstrate usage of timber tongs

3. Power Splitter Tool Use and Care

- Demonstrate visual inspection of machine
 - Identifying hydraulic oil leaks
- Demonstrate starting and stopping of the machine
 - Refueling the splitter
- Demonstrate proper splitting technique
 - Splitting with the grain
 - Appropriate ways to place wood on the splitter

4. Firewood Splitting Sizes

- Firewood should be approximately fit through at 6" diameter hole. This size improves wood drying for safety and energy efficiency.

5. Working around Power and Heavy Equipment

- Safety Coordinator will demonstrate maintaining a safe distance from people operating power equipment and hand tools. Volunteers should also be familiar with where to find PPE to protect their hearing including ear muffs and ear plugs.