

SUGARLOAFERS AGAINST WILDFIRES (SAWS)

A 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation • PO Box 7300, Boulder, CO 80306

Volunteer Agreement and Release from Liability

This required “Volunteer Agreement and Release from Liability” (“Agreement”) describes the mutual understandings of the volunteer and Sugarloafers Against Wildfires (“SAWS”) with regard to the volunteer’s participation in SAWS events. This Agreement will remain valid for one year from the date of the volunteer’s signature below.

Age. Only persons 10 years of age or older may participate in tree work. If I am the parent or guardian of a volunteering minor, I agree to my child’s participation as a SAWS volunteer under the terms of this Agreement. I agree that the words “I,” “me,” and “my” in the Agreement refer to my child as well as to me. I have explained this Agreement and the Safety Protocol to my child. I will continuously and closely supervise my child and assume all responsibility for him/her.

Insurance. I have healthcare insurance. I agree to use my healthcare insurance to cover healthcare costs associated with any and all injuries that I may sustain during my participation in SAWS events. I understand that SAWS does not provide worker’s compensation coverage, although in the event of a major injury, SAWS, through its insurer, may be able to assist with costs that are in excess of amounts covered by my personal healthcare insurance. Any such request for assistance must be promptly submitted in writing to SAWS at the above address.

Waiver of Liability. As consideration for volunteering for SAWS’ wildfire fuel reduction event(s), and with full awareness of any and all limitations that may be associated with my age, health, physical condition, and ability, and with full acceptance of the significant risks inherent in this activity, I hereby voluntarily agree to solely assume all risks of loss that arise out of my participation and agree to waive any and all claims against SAWS and the other parties described below. I hereby release, and agree to forever indemnify and hold harmless, SAWS and any and all of its directors, employees, volunteers, agents, officers, representatives, successors, assigns, and insurers from liability for any injury, loss, or damage to my person or property, whether anticipated or unanticipated, resulting from my participation in any SAWS activities. I authorize SAWS to provide or obtain medical attention for me in case of emergency, and I release SAWS and any and all of its agents, representatives, directors, officers, employees, volunteers, successors, assigns, and insurers from liability for such medical attention.

Safety Protocol. I have received, read, and understood a copy of the SAWS Safety Protocol, and agree to abide by it.

Photo Release. I hereby grant to SAWS, without compensation or limitation, all rights, title, and interest in any and all photographic images and video or audio recordings of me obtained at SAWS events. I understand that such images and related products may be posted on websites and/or in print publications.

Other. I expressly agree that this Agreement is intended to be as broad and inclusive as permitted by law, and to be governed by and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of Colorado. I agree that if that any clause or provision of this Agreement is held to be invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, the invalidity of such clause or provision shall not otherwise affect the validity of the remaining provisions of this Agreement.

To express my understanding of this Agreement and acceptance of its conditions, I – of my own free will – sign here.

Volunteer’s PRINTED Name

Volunteer’s Signature

Date

Name and contact information for person(s) to be notified in case of emergency

MANDATORY SAFETY PROTOCOL FOR ALL SAWS VOLUNTEERS

If you have questions about any of these rules or operations, talk with the Event Supervisor.

Be constantly aware of the dangers inherent in this work. A mistake, lack of attention, or a fall could lead to serious injury. Please be alert to all nearby activity.

- Work only when equipped with personal protective equipment: gloves, sturdy boots, hearing protection, and safety glasses, and helmet (mandatory for sawyers, recommended for everyone).
- Anyone in charge of a minor (to age 18) must monitor that child/teenager to ensure their safe participation.
- Be especially alert to:
 - ✓ Anyone operating a chainsaw. Keep a safe distance away.
 - ✓ Your footing. Test your footing before committing, especially on slopes, loose stone, or slippery ground.
 - ✓ The possibility that mechanical operations can go wrong. Stay far away from any chainsaws, rope under tension, etc. DO NOT “help” a sawyer unless the specific manner of assistance has been agreed upon.
 - ✓ Anyone entering the tree felling area during a tree felling operation. The felling area is the 360 degrees around the tree, to a distance of at least 1.5 times the height of the tree. Felling cuts must stop immediately if someone enters the area. A gentle touch with a tree branch or a chucked pine cone can get the attention of a sawyer.
 - ✓ Operations uphill; gravity could make you a target
- Drink plenty of fluids. Be alert for signs of fatigue, and stop work when tired. Take breaks when necessary.
- Do not overdo it. Lift with your legs. Do not try to exceed your personal capabilities.
- Do not operate a motor vehicle in the work area without first checking with the Event Supervisor.
- If you see something, say something. Do not hesitate to point out a hazard.

ADDITIONAL RULES FOR SAWYERS

- ***No one may operate a saw or other equipment without proper training and experience. If you are unsure of your qualifications, contact SAWS at info@SugarloafersAgainstWildfires.org to provide your phone number and describe your readiness to participate as a sawyer in a SAWS event.***
- Sawyers must wear chaps and helmets, in addition to the safety equipment described above.
- Use your saw only if it is in proper condition. Shut down if your chain is dull or loose.
- If anyone tries to help or approach you while your saw is running, stop cutting immediately.
- Tell others how far away they must be.
- Constantly anticipate how the wood and saw will react. Be ready to safely handle all possible reactions.
- Do not hurry with a saw.
- Resist any temptation to show off.
- When limbing and bucking (cutting a downed tree), only one person shall work on the tree. Any one cut could shift the balance of the tree, causing it to roll, slide, or radically shift position.
- Do not let any material roll downhill.
- Appoint some responsible person in your team to be your eyes, monitoring your area while you work. Tell that person to gently touch you with a branch or chuck a pine cone at you if he or she needs your attention.
- Before felling any tree, be absolutely sure that it cannot encounter a person, a road, utility lines, a structure, or a vehicle.
- Be sure everyone nearby knows you are felling, and that everyone is well outside the entire 360-degree range of your tree.
- If you encounter difficulty – a hung or bridged tree, a pinched saw, etc. – stop work and get good help. Do not take chances with operations or be too embarrassed to ask for help.