

TRAIL MAINTENANCE AND CONSTRUCTION TASKS, HAZARDS, AND RECOMMENDED SAFETY GEAR

This chart is intended as a guide and is not comprehensive. Common sense and awareness are the best tools for any task.
Basic safety equipment for all trail work includes a first-aid kit, boots, work gloves, long pants, and appropriate dress for the weather.

TRAIL TASKS	LIKELY JOB HAZARDS	SAFETY GEAR Boots, work gloves and long pants recommended or required for all tasks	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS
Clearing Balds	Sharp tools, back and arm strain, dehydration, loud noise (if using power equip.), lightning, over-exposure to sun, rain, or wind	Sun hat, sunscreen, eye protection*, hearing protection** (if using power equipment), weed-eater harness,	Drink at least two quarts of water per day, keep proper spacing between workers, leave ridge-crest before lightning storm
Cutting Brush	Sharp tools, spring poles, loose footing, flying brush, poison ivy, bee stings, snakebites, ticks	Eye protection*, shin guards	Have soap and wash water available, know who is allergic to bee stings and poison ivy
Power Mowing, Power Weed Whacking	Loud noise, thrown debris, poison ivy, ticks	Eye protection*, hearing protection, long sleeves	Do not operate near other people; cool engine before refueling
Carpentry	Sharp tools, splinters, flying nail chips or sawdust, smashed fingers or thumbs	Eye protection*	Measure twice, cut once
Chain Saw Operations	Severe, ragged cuts from the chainsaw, kickback, fire, back or muscle strains, falling trees or limbs, loud noise	Required safety gear: Gloves, boots, chainsaw chaps, hardhat, eye protection* and/or face shield, hearing protection**, long pants, long sleeves, first-aid kit Other: wedges, extra chain	Sawyer certification required , two-person crew minimum (one as a spotter), cool saw before fueling, keep saw tuned and chain sharp and tight
Crosscut Saw Operations	Severe, ragged cuts from the saw, back or muscle strains, falling trees or limbs	Required safety gear: Gloves, boots, hardhat, eye protection* and/or face shield, first-aid kit Other: chainsaw chaps, ropes or winches, wedges	Sawyer certification required , two-person crew minimum (one as a spotter)
Tree Felling	Falling trees or limbs, hollow trees, bee stings, barber-chairing	See: Chain-saw operations and crosscut-saw operations Other: ropes or winches, wedges	See: Chain-saw operations and crosscut saw operations
Crush and Fill (site-made gravel)	Rock shrapnel, splinters or broken tool handles, carpal tunnel syndrome, working too close to others	Eye protection*, shinguards, hardhats, long pants and sleeves	Keep wrists rigid when swinging sledgehammer; keep proper spacing between workers
Log Work (peeling, rolling, setting)	Sharp tools, slippery logs, rolling logs, back or muscle strains	Shinguards	Keep back straight, lift with legs or mechanical advantage; work in unison; keep tools sharp
Rigging (winch work)	Frayed cable, improper attachment of load or anchors, standing in the "bight," use of inadequate climbing hardware, overhead loads, hard-to-see cable, overloading system	Gloves, boots, hardhat	Station lookouts, inspect gear frequently, protect trees from damage, avoid improper use of winch (don't be seduced by the power of the winch)
Rock Work	Rock shrapnel or dust, crushed extremities, slippery or unstable footing, back or muscle strain, rattlesnakes	Steel-toed boots recommended, eye protection*, hardhat, shinguards	Keep back straight, lift with legs or mechanical advantage, work in unison
Sharpening	Cuts from tools, flying metal filings	Gloves, eye protection*, file handle and knuckle guard	

* safety glasses or safety goggles

REVISED APRIL 2009

** ear plugs or ear muffs rated to 85 decibels