



# SAFENET

## Wildland Fire Safety & Health Reporting Network



### SAFENET Event Information

**SAFENET ID:** 20240419-0001  
**Event Start Date:** 04/12/2024 1030  
**Event Stop Date:** N/A  
**Incident Name:** Red Canyon Campground Cleanup  
**Fire Number:**  
**State:** NM  
**Jurisdiction:** USFS  
**Local Unit:** Mountainair District, Cibola NF  
**Incident Type:** All Hazard  
**Incident Activity:** Line  
**Stage of Incident:** Non-incident  
**Position Title:** Firefighter  
**Task:** Campground Cleanup  
**Management Level:** N/A  
**Resources Involved:** Crew

### Contributing Factors

**Contributing Factors:** Equipment, Human Factors  
**Human Factors:** Decision Making  
**Other Factors:**

### Narrative and Immediate Action Taken

**Describe in detail what happened including the concern or potential issue, the environment (weather, terrain, fire behavior, etc), and the resulting health issue.**

Approximately 15 minutes into a cutting project clearing fallen trees and limbs from a campground, the saw "fell apart." The chain and bar separated from the power head and the faceplate fell off. The chain tore a hole in the sawyer's sleeve without breaking the skin and wrapped around a tree branch behind him. Work stopped to assess the damage. After further evaluation of the saw, it was believed that the bar nuts were not fully tightened.

Sawyer – "I was just limbing the tree and had a strong vibration from the bar, I checked my chain and it was not loose, but while I was cutting it just fell apart and the chain flew back at me and just missed my face."

Saw was a 500i which had been in service since the previous summer without any issues.

Sawyer was an A level with 4 years of cutting experience.

Some notes from the saw examination: Metal flakes in oil, slightly loose sprocket, Chain may have had an extra link

The chain catch, inside of the faceplate, and the wrap all had fresh grooves.

It was noted that the face plate did not extend as far down to cover the chain catch as on other models.

Examination of the saw was more difficult due to unfamiliarity with the exact specifications of the newer 500i model.

After the saw had been examined by multiple individuals who did not find any problems with it, it was run later in the day without any issues.

**Reporting Individual : please describe actions you took to correct or mitigate the unsafe/unhealthful event.**

The District FMO was there to recertify our group of sawyers while we worked on the cutting project. After his examination of the saw, he went over the Five-Point Safety Check, which is part of the Thinking Sawyers curriculum and was listed on the recertification form, with the squad. It was mentioned that it didn't cover everything and that there were a few other things that should be checked before running a saw, such as bar nuts, fuel level, chain tension, etc.

Per the USDA Forest Service National Sawyer Training: Developing Thinking Sawyers  
Module 2.1 top of page 16

The five inspection points for the safety check are:

1. Activate the chain brake to ensure that it locks and unlocks the chain properly.
2. Squeeze the trigger to ensure it is locked.
- Squeeze again while pressing the interlock to ensure it unlocks.
3. Confirm the chain catch pin is present.
4. Check that the antivibration system and fasteners are tight.
5. Check that the spark arrester screen is present.

### Reported By

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**State Agency:** N/A  
**Other Agency:** N/A