

Tree Cutting Policy

Introduction:

Downed or leaning trees can store significant "rebound energy" in their trunk and limbs which has the potential to cause serious injury. Volunteers are expected to adhere to these policies for their safety and to properly coordinate with the IPWA Sawyer Team and Boulder Ranger District (BRD) staff. These policies apply year-round to all geographic areas that are patrolled by IPWA.

Most trees are removed fairly quickly, within a week. Some trees may take longer or they may be left alone for a variety of reasons. The vast majority of leaning trees are left to fall naturally because they are dangerous to remove. *It is totally acceptable to leave trees and branches that are fully blocking a trail.* The IPWA Sawyer team and the BRD will evaluate and schedule the tree for removal.

Policies:

- Trees impeding the trail must be noted in the appropriate section of your patrol report, which should be filed the same day as the patrol.
- Any volunteer may use a small limbing saw to remove side-branches which are thumb-diameter or less, that are not under load, and which are impeding the trail corridor. Work gloves and eye protection must be worn during this task.
- Only volunteers who are certified USFS Sawyers and members of the IPWA Sawyer Team may cut and remove trees and larger branches.
- For questions about tree removal, USFS Sawyer certification or the IPWA Sawyer program please email hikers@indianpeakswilderness.org