

**Hazards are Minimal, Static,  
and Understood**

COMPLEXITY

**Hazards are Numerous, Dynamic,  
Not Understood and/or Unstable**

Known Low Release of Energy

Release of Energy Known but May Require Series of Cuts

High Release of Energy Expected or Unknown

Fell to any lay

<1" Lift to Overcome Lean

1"-2" Lift to Overcome Lean

Fire Present

Fire Weakened

Hung or Limb Locked Trees

Static Hazards

**B**

Dynamic Hazards

**C**

Clear Escape Paths

Green or Sound Hinge

Escape Path or Cover Limited

Compromised Hinge

Simple Binds

Multiple Compound Binds

Storm Damage or Jackstraws

Double Cut Undercut/Backcut

>Double Cut Undercut/Backcut

Moderately Sloping Ground

QUALIFICATION

Steeply Sloping Ground

## Dynamic Factors Affecting Saw Operation

### Human Factors

Attitude, Fatigue, Stress, Unexpected Reactions, Plan Failure

### Environment

Wind, Fire, Precipitation, Soil, Overhead, Unknown Tree Defects

## Static Factors Affecting Saw Operation

Objective, Fiber, Lay, Terrain, Known Tree Defects

Do these  
factors align  
with your  
ability and  
qualification?

If **YES**,  
Proceed

If **NO**,  
Reassess

**STOP**  
**Reevaluate**

No Safe lay  
No Escape Route  
No Escape from Hazards  
<30% Fiber at Hinge  
Base Won't Support Stem if Cut  
Cutting Plan ≠ Objective  
Cutting Plan Changed

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US Forest Service Saw Program Complexity Guide

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