

Job Name: _____ Job Site Location: _____

Date: _____ Start Time: _____ Finish Time: _____ Foreman/Supervisor: _____

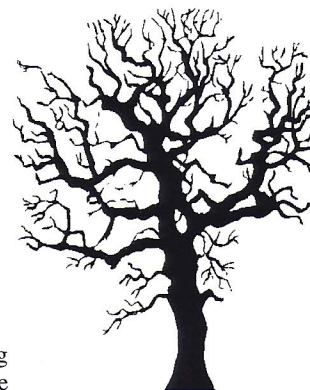
Topic 448: Tree Climbing & Trimming Safety (Landscaping)

Introduction: Trimming and pruning is a task necessary for maintenance of most trees. Large trees will require the worker to manually climb, or be elevated by an aerial lift, into a position from which the required work may be accomplished. Safety is a primary concern for workers involved in tree maintenance, and training along with proper techniques are required to ensure worker safety.

- An employer must provide training to each new employee regarding the requirements of the job, job hazards, and safeguards before starting his/her assigned job. A job briefing should be conducted before any tree job involving any unique or unusual hazards.

Personal protective equipment

- Eye and head protection must be provided and used.
- An approved safety belt, safety strap, tree trimming saddle belt, or rope saddle must be provided, and used when working aloft in a tree. A safety strap must be worn and attached when aloft in the bucket of an aerial device. A saddle or safety belt made unsafe by damage, defect, or alteration must not be used.
- When an employee is exposed to vehicular traffic, an orange colored jacket or vest must be worn by the employee. At nighttime, or in low light conditions, the vest or jacket must be reflectorized.
- Sturdy gloves and high top boots are recommended, and may be required for tree maintenance work.

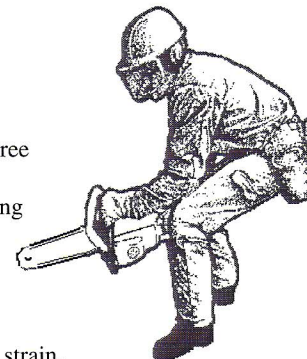


General Safety

- The hardware for safety belts must be forged steel or metal of equivalent strength. The snap must be of the self closing type, and the support ring so designed as to prevent accidental disengagement.
- A climbing rope may not be less than 1/2 inch, and at least 3 or 4 strand first grade manila with a nominal breaking strength of 2,650 pounds or its equivalent in strength and durability. A climbing rope may not be used to lower tree parts or handle equipment. A climbing rope must be inspected for defects before each day's use.
- A climbing rope should be crotched as soon as possible after the employee is aloft and located in a crotch. If possible, crotch the rope at a height over the work area so that the employee will swing away from any conductor or line in the event of a fall.
- The climbing employee must remain tied in until the work is completed and he/she has returned to the ground.
- If it becomes necessary to re-crotch, the employee aloft must retie in, or use a safety strap before releasing the previous tie.
- An employee must not climb a tree during a storm, or high wind, or when covered with ice or snow, except when performing emergency service.
- Where the fall of a limb or tree would create a hazard for an employee, pedestrian or vehicular traffic, a means such as a barrier or traffic control director must be used to prevent injury.

Limbing

- If another employee is present, a verbal warning must be given by the employee aloft before dropping a limb.
- A separate work rope, controlled by an employee on the ground, shall be used to lower limbs which cannot be dropped. The work rope shall not use the same crotch over which the climbing rope is run.
- A cut branch or limb may not be left aloft overnight or for an extended period unless the limb is secured to the tree or the area under the tree is roped off or barricaded.
- Whenever an employee is aloft in excess of 15 feet, a second employee or supervisor shall be within vocal hearing distance of the treed employee.
- When possible, an employee cutting a limb must work from the side opposite and uphill of the cut.
- Branches bent under tension must be considered hazardous and the situation corrected.



Topping

- When topping, equipment such as a crane, shall be used to lower branches and limbs if the tree cannot stand the strain.
- When lowering large limb sections, the employee aloft shall position himself, whenever possible, above the limb being lowered.

Special Note: Proper training on the tools used to perform maintenance work on trees is necessary for safety on the job. Using chain saws while suspended at heights can be extremely hazardous and all precautions possible should be taken to ensure the safety of workers. Training on ladders and any mechanical lifts used is required. Keep your ground workers advised at all times of your plans and actions.

Work Site Review

Work-Site Hazards and Safety Suggestions: _____

Personnel Safety Violations: _____

Employee Signatures:

(My signature attests and verifies my understanding of and agreement to comply with, all company safety policies and regulations, and that I have not suffered, experienced, or sustained any recent job-related injury or illness.)

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

These guidelines do not supercede local, state, or federal regulations and must not be construed as a substitute for, or legal interpretation of, any OSHA regulations.