

Tree Worker Safety

Tree work (Forestry) is the 2nd most hazardous work performed. There are approximately 60 deaths per year in the tree care industry. Working in and around trees is very dangerous. Safety is more than standards, rules, and guidelines – **it is an attitude.**

Each employee must make safety a **priority** at all times:

Managers – Need to ensure that all employees (including themselves) are properly trained on safety and tree care Industry standards. This includes the USDOL – Occupational Safety & Health Association (OSHA) and the American National Standards Institute (ANSI Z133.1) guidelines. This also includes proper training in electrical hazard tree work procedures (EHAP).

- Implement TCIA Model Company Safety Program, & have someone become a Certified Tree Care Safety Professional.
- Order safety training videos for training.

Estimators – When performing an estimate, take time to ensure that all potential safety hazards are noted on the work proposal. USE the pre-plan safety recommendation.

- We do not currently perform work within 10 feet of an energized conductor.
- Ensure each tree is safe to climb, consider & document all potential hazards
- Always think safety & precaution when assessing a job

Tree Foreman's/Climbers – Before performing any job, thoroughly inspect the job site to become familiar with any potential hazards or dangerous objects such as power or communication lines. Also be aware of terrain, weather conditions, the shape, flaws, and lean of trees. If you don't think the tree is safe to climb – DO NOT climb it.

- Always be conscience of potential hazards, do not climb tree without inspection
- Always be aware of who is below & always be safe

Equipment/ Operators – Communicate and work effectively with climbers

- Shall understand and follow
http://www.treecareindustry.com/Public/gov_standards_z133.htm

Grounds men – Understand your responsibilities, obtain guidance from supervisor.

- Always perform Chainsaw & Chipper safety practices
- Never walk behind a chainsaw operator (keep a 10 ft distance)
- Always make sure someone is watching a climber who is up a tree
- Be aware of potential hazards such as electrical conductors (working within 10 ft)

Everyone – Have a conscience and positive attitude towards Safety

- NEVER begin work without a site inspection. The site supervisor should determine job briefing before starting work so activities are clear for everyone
- Always be AWARE and ALERT of surroundings, people and objects above and below, near and far (a ground man should ALWAYS be aware and available for a the climber in a tree)
- Communicate effectively with others (be a good Listener)
- Wear Personal Protective Equipment (eye/hearing/body protection - boots, hard hats, glasses, proper clothes, etc)
- All employees needs to be First Aid & CPR certified
- All employees need to be trained in Emergency Response & climbers in Aerial Rescue
- All employees needs to be aware of OSHA & ANSI Safety standards

- All employees should be instructed in the identification of common poisonous plants