



TREE WORK SAFETY

(Includes Trimming/Felling/Limbing/Bucking/Grinding, Use of Chain Saws, Bucket Trucks, Wood Chippers and Review of Other Hazards)

Target Audience: This course is designed specifically for DOT District employees, municipal public works, streets/roads, parks, water utility and/or other city or county employees who engage in tree work, are exposed to common tree work hazards and the risks associated with tree work machines and tools.

Supervisors and Trainers: Also recommended for division supervisors, agency safety officers, department safety coordinators, and equipment trainers.

Post-storm (Additional Emergency On-Call Operators): After natural disasters, it is not uncommon to call on new operators (from other divisions even) to assist as back-up tree work crews as primary tree work specialists become fatigued or are rotated on shifts. This program would orient these additional workers as standby crews.



For more information or to inquire about upcoming training dates:

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Classroom Part

Accident Case Studies: As an introduction, a number of recent city/ county employee accident cases are reviewed. Each represents a likely severe injury or fatality scenario related to tree trimming, felling and damaged or felled tree removal.



Personal Protective Equipment and Clothing: Types of chain saw chaps, gloves, hard hats, shoes, eye wear and other protective gear is featured. This segment continues to discuss acceptable clothing.



Chain Saw Safety: We conduct an in-depth review of safe work practices related to chain saws including choosing the right saw, maintenance, proper use, avoiding kick-backs, trouble shooting and stowing.

Bucket Trucks: Safe operation of aerial baskets and other high reach equipment is covered including positioning, stability and machine/operator limitations.

Tree Trimming/Felling/Limbing/Bucking/Stump Grinding: This section details pre-cut hazard assessment and felling plans. It continues by demonstrating safe technique for most aspects of tree work from trimming and thinning all the way to bucking (final log sectioning) for removal.



Wood Chippers: Safe positioning, limb sizing, insertion direction and danger zones related to mulching or chipping machines is covered.



Power Line Issues: Risks related to high voltage wires are covered including close proximity to above ground wires and downing of power wires by felling whole trees or dropping limbs. It illustrates how tree limbs are a perfect conductor of high voltage power.

Other Hazards: Heat stress, lightning, poisonous plants, insects/ bees and other hazards incidental to tree work are presented.

Field Exercise Part

A field exercise can be conducted where select or all individuals perform various segments of actual “hands-on” tree work.

1) Hazard Assessment

- Power lines
- Rotted limbs
- Rotted trunk
- Insects
- Objects at Risk
- Personnel
- Fall zone

2) Saw Inspection

- Guards
- Fuel, Oil, (Filler cap good, level full, no leaks)
- Dirt/dust/Chips buildup
- Chain tightness
- Chain brake
- Tip “kickback” guard
- Pull Chord

3) Starting

- Saw on ground
- Switch on
- Choke (y/n)
- Foot in handle
- Stable full range pull
- Quickly starts

4) Saw Handling/Position

- Stance
- Position
- Grip
- Extending/lean limit
- Up-hill/out of fall/roll zone/pinch point
- Carrying

5) Attack

- Near saw body
- No upper tip use
- Upper blade use
- Grip/grab tooth use
- Forcing/bending

6) Pre-cuts

- Face cut
- Hinge wood
- Bore
- Back strap

7) Stump Grinding & Wood Chippers (on request)

- Proper Equipment Use
- Techniques
- Hazards

8) Bucket Truck Operations (on request)

