

FOUNDATION FOR WORKER SAFETY

Tree trimming, also known as pruning or cutting, is a necessary activity to maintain the health and safety of trees, as well as to keep them aesthetically pleasing. However, it can also be a dangerous job if proper safety precautions are not taken. In this blog post, we will discuss worker safety related to tree trimming, using resources from arboricultural standards.

Arboriculture is the science and practice of cultivating, managing, and maintaining trees, shrubs, and other woody plants. Arboricultural standards are guidelines that provide recommendations and best practices for safe and effective tree care. These standards have been developed by organizations such as the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) and the Tree Care Industry Association (TCIA).

The following are some important safety guidelines for workers engaged in tree trimming activities:

- 1. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):** Workers should wear appropriate PPE, such as a hard hat, eye and ear protection, gloves, and safety shoes. Workers should also wear high-visibility clothing to make them more visible to motorists and other workers on the job site.
- 2. Work Area Safety:** Workers should establish a safe work zone around the tree, with barricades or cones to mark the area. Workers should also secure the work area from pedestrian and vehicular traffic. Workers should not operate equipment near overhead power lines or other hazards.
- 3. Equipment Safety:** Workers should ensure that all equipment is properly maintained and in good working condition. They should also follow the manufacturer's instructions for safe operation. Workers should use appropriate tools for the job, such as pruning shears or chainsaws.
- 4. Climbing Safety:** Workers who climb trees should use appropriate climbing equipment, such as harnesses and ropes, and should be properly trained in climbing techniques. They should also follow safe work practices, such as not climbing too high in the tree and avoiding branches that are under tension.
- 5. Cutting Techniques:** Workers should use proper cutting techniques to avoid injury to themselves or the tree. They should make sure that the tree is properly supported before cutting, and should not make cuts that could cause the tree to fall in an unpredictable direction. They should also avoid cutting branches that are under tension, as these can cause kickback.

In addition to these guidelines, workers should be properly trained in safe work practices, and should receive regular safety training updates. Employers should also establish a safety program that includes regular safety inspections and hazard assessments.

By following these safety guidelines and using resources from arboricultural standards, workers can ensure that they are working safely and effectively when trimming trees. Proper safety practices not only protect workers, but also ensure that trees are pruned and maintained in a safe and sustainable manner.