



-PERFICUT SITE MANAGEMENT-

Tree Safety Program

1/20/2025

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to address the multiple hazards associated with tree trimming and removal. The potential hazards include, but are not limited to: chain saw use, working at heights, electrocution, falling trees and debris, flying chips, noise, etc.

POLICY

The Tree Department Manager is responsible for the implementation and maintenance of this program. A copy of this program is located with the Department Manager and the Safety Director. All tree workers must be thoroughly trained in proper techniques and protective measures prior to assignment. All workers will follow the safety standards put forth in the ANSI Z133-2017 Safety Requirements for Arboricultural Operations.

PROCEDURES

Personal Protective Equipment - The following PPE will always be used:

- Hard Hats
- Heavy Gloves
- Non-slip Composite Safety Toe Boots
- Safety Glasses
- Face Shield
- Cut Resistant Leg Protection (chaps)
- Hearing Protection
- Climbing Equipment (as appropriate)
 - Safety Harnesses
 - Belts and Ropes
 - Lanyards
 - Slings
 - Carabiners

Pre-Start Inspection – A hazard inspection and briefing must be done before the start of each job. Based on that analysis a plan of attack and proper equipment will be chosen that will help perform the job safely. Some items that will be chosen in the analysis:

- Condition of the tree such as presence of cracks, cankers, splits, dead and rotten branches. Look for hives or other signs of animals, and poison ivy growing on or around the tree.
- Presence of electrical powerlines that may be in proximity.
- Nearby structures and objects.
- Any needed or required roadway safety signage, traffic cones or flaggers.
- Inspect all safety equipment – check belts, harnesses, and ropes for cuts, fraying, and deterioration; Clips, buckles, rivets, snap catches, and carabiners close securely and are appropriate for the job.

Electrical Hazards – **Only qualified line clearance tree trimmers are allowed to work within 10 feet of energized powerlines.** All employees not qualified are required to keep the minimum distances shown in the following table:

| Nominal Voltage kV Phase to Phase | Distance Ft-Inch | Nominal Voltage kV Phase to Phase | Distance Ft-Inch |
|--|-----------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| 0.0-1.0 | 10-00 | 138.0-145.0 | 13-02 |
| 1.1-15.0 | 10-00 | 161.0-169.0 | 14-00 |
| 15.1-36.00 | 10-00 | 230.0-242.0 | 16-05 |
| 36.1-50.00 | 10-00 | 345.0-362.0 | 20-05 |
| 50.1-72.5 | 10-09 | 500.0-550.0 | 26-08 |
| 72.6-121.0 | 12-04 | 785.0-800.00 | 35-00 |



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Safety Hazards – Use the following to prevent injury hazards:

- Always use the appropriate PPE.
- Always be aware of your surroundings. Talk with coworkers to ensure you know what kind of work they are doing and where.
- Limbs that cannot be dropped safely will be lowered with a rope.
- Do not leave cut limbs in a tree. Drop or lower them to the ground.
- Follow a two-tree rule when felling. No one other than the feller should be within two tree lengths of the tree being felled.
- Maintain a greater distance when felling on a slope where logs could roll or slide.
- Do not turn your back on a tree being felled or where branches are being cut.
- Only trained and authorized operators shall be permitted to operate designated equipment.
- Wear snug fitting clothes and NO jewelry.
- Keep bystanders and animals out of the work area.
- Do not use a chain saw that is damaged, improperly adjusted, or not completely assembled.
- Do not operate the unit if you are ill, fatigued or under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- Do not begin cutting unless you have a clear work area and a planned escape route.
- Keep saw handles dry, clean, and free of fuel/oil mixture.
- Operate chain saws only in well ventilated areas.
- Keep all body parts away from the saw when the engine is running.
- Only carry the chain saw with the engine stopped, guide bar and chain to the rear and muffler away from body. Use the appropriate guide bar safety cover.
- Shut off the engine before setting the chain saw down.
- When cutting a limb under tension be alert for spring back once tension has been removed.
- Keep a firm grip with both hands when using a chain saw.
- Cut at high speed to reduce the possibility of kickback.
- Never make cuts between your feet and legs, always cut with the saw outside your legs.
- In case of a broken chain, never position yourself or others directly in line with the chain.
- Keep the chain sharp, clean, and properly adjusted.
- All chain saw services should be performed by competent saw service personnel.

Training Requirements – Tree workers shall receive formal training on climbing and use of climbing equipment including the use of various types of knots. In addition, tree workers must receive training in the use of aerial platforms, chain saws and other tools used on the job, use and care of PPE, proper limb cutting and tree felling techniques, and electrical limited approach boundaries. Training materials and certifications can be found in, but not limited to:

- ANSI Z133-2017 for Arboricultural Operations
- Arborist Certification Study Guide
- ISA Certified Tree Worker Climber Specialist Guide
- Tree Risk Assessment Workshop/Certification
- Aerial Rescue Training
- Iowa Arborist Association Workshops