

CSUB TREE TRIMMING OPERATING PROCEDURES

Rev: 7/98

Training and Supervision

Tree trimming, repair and removal operations must be conducted under the direction of a qualified tree worker.

Only staff working under job classifications that include qualifications for tree climbing should be allowed to enter trees by climbing or from aerial devices.

Employees will be trained and instructed in the hazards involved in their job assignments. Training should include the CSUB Safe Work Practices for tree trimming operations, International Society for Arboriculture and ANSI safety recommendations as well as hands demonstration of competency using required equipment.

A job briefing should be conducted by the qualified tree worker prior to the start of each job. Unique hazards, safe operation of equipment and specific work procedures should be discussed.

All training must be documented.

Emergency Procedures

With the exception of minor tree trimming, a second employee shall be used at each work location to render immediate assistance and implement emergency procedures.

First aid and CPR services are available at all times by calling the University Police at 911 or 2111. Police dispatch will send a CSUB Officer immediately and notify other emergency medical providers as needed.

If aerial rescue is needed, instruct the University Police dispatcher to notify Bakersfield Fire Department of this special circumstance.

Personal Protective Equipment

Hearing protection is required when operating chain saws, chippers or other loud equipment.

Leg protection (chaps) is required while operating a chain saw on the ground.

ANSI approved face protection and safety glasses are required while operating a chain saw.

ANSI approved eye protection is required for all tree trimming and brush removal operations.

ANSI approved hard hats are required for all ground operations and for all tree work that involves overhead hazards

General Work Practices

Inspect all equipment and safety devices prior to use. Repair any equipment found to be defective immediately or remove it from service.

Never use any part off the body to locate or attempt to stop a hydraulic leak.

Turn off power saws when carrying for a distance of more than 100 feet or through hazardous areas such as slippery surfaces or heavy brush. Saws must be idled when carried for short distances.

Stopped engines for all cleaning, refueling, adjustments and repairs except where manufacturer's procedures require otherwise.

Never leave equipment or tools such as pole pruners in trees overnight.

Maintain a safe distance from other employees when operating equipment.

Swing chopping tools away from the feet, legs and body.

Never use chopping tools as wedges or to drive metal wedges.

Work from the uphill side whenever possible while limbing or bucking.

Block logs to prevent rolling when necessary.

When bucking up trunks of trees, use wedges to prevent the binding of the guide bar or chain.

Felling

Clear the work area of unnecessary personnel and equipment. Plan an escape route before felling operations begin.

A notch or backcut shall be used in felling trees over 10 inches in diameter.

Issue an audible warning such as timber just before the tree is ready to fall.

Chipping and Stump Removal

Feed rotary drum or disk type chippers from the side of the center line. Always turn away from the feed table immediately as the brush is taken into the rotor.

Never place hands, arms, feet, legs or any body part on the feed table when a brush chipper is in operation.

Do not raise the chipper chute while a brush chipper rotor is running.

Identify locations of underground electrical service prior to stump removal operations.

Fueling Equipment

Smoking is prohibited within 25 feet of areas where fueling is conducted.

Do not fuel an internal combustion engine fuel tank while the engine is running. Replace the fuel tank cap prior to starting the engine.

Use only safety containers equipped with an automatic closing cap and flame arrester for transporting and storing fuel for portable equipment.

Trucks supporting equipment which needs to be refueled in the field should be equipped with fire extinguishers.

Aerial Lift Devices

Only authorized persons may operate an aerial lift device.

Employees must be secured to the boom, basket or tub of an aerial device through the use of a safety belt, body belt or safety harness equipped with a safety strap or lanyard. Belting off to an adjacent pole, structure or piece of equipment is not permitted.

Know the boom, basket and platform load limits. Never exceed these weight restrictions.

Set the vehicle braking system prior to elevating personnel. Use wheel chocks if the vehicle is parked on an incline.

Never sit on the edge of the basket or use a ladder or other object on top of the basket to attempt to gain a greater height.

Do not wear climbing gear while performing work from an aerial device

Prior to leaving the basket of an aerial device for entry into a tree, secure a safety line to the tree before removing the safety line attached to the basket. Reverse this procedure when entering the basket from a tree.

Lower level controls may only be changed with the prior permission of the employee in the basket except in the event of an emergency.

Do not move an aerial lift device while the boom is elevated and employees are in the basket.

Before moving an aerial device for travel, inspect the boom to make sure it is properly cradled and outriggers are in the stowed position.

Climbing

Climbing ropes shall be used when working aloft in trees. These ropes must have a minimum diameter of 1/2" and shall be 3 or 4 strand, first grade manila, with a nominal breaking strength of 2,300 lb., or its equivalent in strength and durability. Polypropylene or other synthetic ropes having similar low melting points shall not be used.

Visually inspect climbing ropes for cuts or abrasions prior to each use. Repair defective ropes or remove them from service immediately.

Prior to climbing the tree, visually inspect to determine the safest method of entry and the location of electrical hazards and other equipment in the area.

Spurs must be of the tree climbing type and have gaffs of the type and length suitable for the tree to be climbed.

Do not carry tools in hands while climbing.

Crotch the climbing line as soon as practicable. Tie and check a taut line-hitch.

Pass the climbing rope around the main leader or a major upright branch of the tree as high as necessary using branches with a wide crotch to prevent binding of the rope and a limb for a stop. The crotch selected needs to be directly over the work area as nearly as possible. Feet, hands, and ropes should be kept out of tight V shaped crotches whenever possible.

When working aloft, wear a tree worker's saddle and tie-in with an approved safety strap or rope.

Remain tied in until the work is completed and you have returned to the ground, unless it is necessary to re-crotch.

Remove all cut branches (hangers) from the tree prior to leaving the job site.

Never throw or drop tools from trees unless an audible warning has been given and the ground area below is clear.

Do not use climbing ropes to lower limbs or other parts of trees. A separate line should be attached to limbs which are too heavy to control by hand. Avoid use of the same crotch for safety and work ropes.

An audible warning such as "timber" or "heads up" must be given prior to dropping limbs.

Traffic Control

Wear orange, strong yellow - green or fluorescent versions of these colored warning garments such as vests, jackets or shirts when working on foot and exposed to vehicular hazards.

Use flaggers where barricades and warning signs cannot control the moving traffic. Flaggers must wear the colored warning garments described above.

Flaggers must be trained in the fundamentals of signaling moving traffic specified in the CAL TRANS Manual of Traffic controls for Construction and Maintenance Work Zones. This manual is available in the CSUB Office of Safety and Risk Management (S&R).

Specifications for the size, design and placement of traffic control signs and devices are also included in the Manual of Traffic Controls for Construction and maintenance Work Zones.