# LANTw24
# Sever uprooted or windblown trees using a chainsaw

## Overview

This standard is about the severing of root-plates from windblown or individual uprooted trees using a chainsaw. The trees will not be in a position that requires assistance from emergency services or utility companies. This covers trees that have been windblown or uprooted by storm damage, earth movement or other physical agent

The trees will be intermeshed in a complex fashion so that a planned order of approach will be necessary to complete the work. The order of work will often involve the severing and extraction of part-blown and wind-snapped trees prior to severing root-plates from fully blown stems

The trees will be both over and under guidebar length in diameter and will be both fully and partially uprooted. This also includes the severing of root-plates that overhang the chainsaw operator's cutting position using mechanical or other appropriate machinery for restraint

This also describes the severing of partly blown (leaning) trees and the felling of wind-snapped (broken) trees with and without the tops attached

Winches or other appropriate machinery may also be used for restraint of trees with side tension or where the stem is likely to roll

Your work must conform to all current legislation and codes of practice

If you are working with chemicals or machinery you need to be appropriately trained or certificated in line with current legislation

This standard is for those using chainsaws

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## Performance criteria

*You must be able to:*

P1 assess the risks associated with the site and the proposed works
P2 evaluate own competence to proceed with operations and if any doubt do not proceed
P3 discuss concerns with appropriate person as to how best the works can be completed
P4 select and implement appropriate working method in accordance with the assessed risks
P5 plan a systematic approach to the work to ensure that no unstable trees or root-plates are overhanging the cutting positions and includes thorough briefings to all operators on site
P6 prepare site by removing obstacles in work position and establish escape route as appropriate
P7 prepare stems by removing branches, climbing vegetation, scrub and other obstructions as appropriate
P8 identify tension and compression in stems and select a recognised severing method appropriate to tree size and condition for trees under and over guidebar length in diameter
P9 sever the root-plates from under and over guidebar diameter stems using appropriate compression and tension cuts, using restraint equipment as appropriate
P10 prepare and fell wind-snapped trees using appropriate methods and aid tools
P11 ensure trees and root-plates are in a safe and appropriate position and condition to enable subsequent operations
P12 select and use equipment for the restraint of the tree that is appropriate to the size and condition of tree and root-plate
P13 ensure the effects of your work do not adversely affect the environment
P14 maintain the health and safety of yourself and others at all times in accordance with current relevant legislation

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## Knowledge and understanding

*You need to know and understand:*

K1 how to identify hazards and assess risks
K2 how to interpret risk assessments
K3 how to identify top, bottom and side tension and compression in timber
K4 the risks involved and precautions to be taken by the chainsaw operator when cutting timber under high tension
K5 how to recognise when winch restraint of a root-plate or stem is necessary
K6 how to use a winch or other mechanical means for restraint of side tension or to prevent timber rolling/moving on a slope
K7 the methods and risks of cutting a 'long log' when severing buried stems or unstable root-plates
K8 the alternative methods that can be used to sever timber under very heavy tension (e.g. 'V' cuts), the additional risks and precautions to be taken
K9 how to make root-plates safe after severing
K10 the restrictions to consider and additional safety precautions when using winches to restrain overhanging root-plates
K11 the types of winches suitable for restraining root-plates and how they operate
K12 how to select anchor points adequate for load applied and operator safeguards in case of anchor point failure, including consideration of multiplication of forces on anchor points with e.g. double rigging or offset (diverted) pulling
K13 how to select, set up and use winch and compatible **ancillary equipment** for double-rigging and offset (diverted) pulling
K14 the danger areas in relation to the winching system, the tree stem and the root-plate
K15 the situations where a banksman (lookout person) would be employed and the means of communication with the operator
K16 the reasons and methods for restraint of side tension in uprooted stems
K17 how to recognise situations where chainsaw severing is not appropriate
K18 methods of severing uprooted trees, under and over guidebar length in diameter
K19 how to sever partly uprooted or windblown (leaning) trees
K20 how to fell broken trees with tops attached or snapped trees with no tops
K21 advantages and methods of removing a broken top prior to felling
K22 problems and work methods associated with felling broken trees
K23 additional safeguards when felling broken standing stems with unstable root-plates
K24 the potential hazards and the safeguards required when cutting tops

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| | without severing the root-plate |
| K25 | the potential impacts of your work on the environment and how these can be minimised |
| K26 | your responsibilities under current environmental and health and safety legislation |

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## Scope/range related to knowledge and understanding

**Ancillary equipment** compatible with the winch, etc., will include cables, strops, chokers, shackles, pulley snatch blocks and other devices such as cable extension clamps

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