

Support colleagues undertaking off-ground treework operations

Overview

This standard is about supporting colleagues undertaking off-ground treework operations. The standard includes the safe preparation and maintenance of work sites, supporting and assisting colleagues working off-ground, and the manual treatment and disposal of arisings or residues.

Anyone involved in the positioning of warning signs on public highways needs to be supervised by a qualified person under relevant legislation.

When working with machinery you need to be appropriately trained, and hold current certification where required, in line with relevant legislation.

Your work must conform to all relevant legislation and codes of practice when carrying out this work.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. assess the risks associated with the site and the proposed work
2. select and implement appropriate working methods, in accordance with the assessed risks
3. select and use the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for the work
4. select, prepare and use the appropriate tools and equipment, safely and effectively
5. confirm all equipment has been checked and is fit for purpose
6. check, prepare, safeguard and secure additional equipment to support colleagues undertaking off-ground treework operations
7. maintain the security of machinery and equipment on site
8. in liaison with the climber, pass and retrieve equipment to the climber in the tree
9. in liaison with the climber, enter the drop zone to remove wood or arisings safely and effectively
10. deal with arisings in accordance with safe working practices and environmental considerations
11. communicate effectively with others throughout the work, including the client and any members of the public
12. constantly monitor the situation and inform the climber promptly and clearly of any changes in hazards and risks on the site
13. in liaison with the climber, sort, order and maintain the climbing system
14. ensure the site is left in a condition which meets environmental requirements, in accordance with the specification
15. maintain the health and safety of yourself and others at all times, in accordance with relevant legislation

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. how to identify hazards and assess risks
2. how to interpret risk assessments
3. the selection, use and care of personal protective equipment (PPE)
4. the types of tools and equipment required and how to maintain and use these safely and effectively in line with the manufacturer's recommendations
5. the legal requirements for checking equipment
6. the emergency plan and procedures (including environmental and aerial rescue)
7. how to monitor and control sites to ensure safe working (in liaison with the climber)
8. why colleagues undertaking off-ground treework operations require support
9. how to assist the climber in ensuring that access equipment and systems are in safe working order
10. how to safely pass and retrieve equipment to the climber in the tree
11. why it is important to remove arisings from the drop zone as soon as it is safe to do so
12. how to initiate and maintain effective communication throughout the work with colleagues, the client and the general public
13. the basic principles of tree habits and how they impact your work
14. how the species and condition of trees will affect your work
15. the potential impact of your work on the environment and how this can be minimised
16. your responsibilities under relevant environmental, health and safety legislation and codes of practice

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Glossary

Access equipment includes access and egress, Mobile Elevated Work Platforms (MEWPs), hanging off ropes, rope access, rope positioning, ladders, scaffolding, cranes, spikes

Climber, in this case, means the person working off the ground, which could include Mobile Elevated Work Platforms or rope and harness

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