Landscaping Services

Nursery and Tree Production

NAICS Code

561730 Landscaping Services

111421 Nursery and Tree Production

Section 9

SAFETY RULES, POLICIES, AND PROCEDURES

The safety rules contained on these pages have been prepared to protect you in your daily work. Employees are to follow these rules, review them often and use good common sense in carrying out assigned duties.

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ALL EMPLOYEES

General Rules

1. Do not use a chain saw if you are taking medication from a container labeled "may cause drowsiness".

2. Stop tree trimming operations during an electrical storm and when lightning is visible, or thunder is heard.

3. Use work gloves when handling tree stumps and branches.

4. Remove your gloves and wash your hands with soap and water after handling tree stumps and branches.

5. Do not stand under a tree or tree limb when trimming is in progress.

6. Do not cut a branch away until the ground crew is away from the branch's fall area.

Pre-Work Inspection

1. Visually inspect the tree for any broken limbs that may already be hanging and remove those limbs first.

2. Walk through the work area before trimming. Remove hoses and toys; mark water meters and sprinkler heads using orange cones or "flags".

Proper Lifting Procedure

1. Plan the move before lifting; remove obstructions from your chosen pathway.

2. Test the weight of the load before lifting by pushing the load along its resting surface.

3. If the load is too heavy or bulky, get assistance from a co-worker.

4. If assistance is required to perform a lift, coordinate, and communicate your movements with those of your co-worker.

5. Position your feet 6 to 12 inches apart with one foot slightly in front of the other.

6. Face the load.

7. Bend at the knees, not at the back.

8. Keep your back straight.

9. Get a firm grip on the object with your hands and fingers. Use handles when present.

10. Never lift anything if your hands are greasy or wet.

11. Hold objects as close to your body as possible.

12. Perform lifting movements smoothly and gradually; do not jerk the load.

13. If you must change direction while lifting or carrying the load, pivot your feet and turn your entire body. Do not twist at the waist.

14. Set down objects in the same manner as you picked them up, except in reverse.

15. Slide materials to the end of the tailgate before attempting to lift them from a pick-up truck. Do not lift over the walls or tailgate of the truck bed.

Chain Saws

1. When transporting a chain saw in a vehicle, keep the chain and the bar covered with a guard and secure the saw to prevent fuel spillage and damage.

2. When transporting a chain saw by hand, stop the engine, grip the saw handle, place the muffler at the side away from your body and position the guide bar to the rear.

3. Do not use a chain saw with parts that are loose, worn, cracked or otherwise visibly damaged.

4. Do not remove the chain brake or alter handles, chain brake, chain or covers.

5. Tag damaged chain saws "Out of Service" to prevent accidental start up or use.

6. Only use grip locations as specified by the manufacturer as handholds when operating the chain saw.

7. Do not pour fuel into the tank of a running engine.

8. Do not smoke while servicing, using, or refueling a chain saw.

9. Keep body parts and clothing away from the running engine and the cutting blade.

10. Allow the engine to cool before performing maintenance or refueling.

11. Stop the engine and disconnect the spark plug wire before cleaning, inspecting, adjusting, or repairing cutting blades or other rotating parts.

12. Always start a chain saw with a 10 inch or larger bar on the ground. Engage the chain brake, place one foot through the bottom handle, hold the top handle and pull the starter rope.

13. Do not place a chain saw on your knee when starting it.

14. Always use both hands to maintain control of the chain saw.

15. When moving from tree to tree or cut to cut, activate the chain brake, remove your finger from the trigger and keep the bar away from your body.

16. Do not operate a chain saw above your shoulder height.

17. Keep the nose of the bar clear of other nearby objects during cutting to prevent kickback.

18. Do not set a saw down while the blade is engaged.

19. Stop the engine and turn the switch to "OFF" when the chain saw is to be left unattended.

Handsaws

1. Keep control of saws by releasing downward pressure at the end of the stroke.

2. Do not use a saw that has dull saw blades.

3. Oil saw blades after each use.

4. Keep your hands and fingers away from the saw blade while using the saw.

5. Do not carry a saw by the blade.

GROUND CREW PERSONNEL - Chipper Operators, Traffic Control Personnel, Remote Bucket Operators

Traffic Control

1. Wear the international orange reflective vest when directing traffic around trimming work.

2. Place orange warning cones and "detour" signs at the roadside under the work area before beginning tree trimming over streets.

3. Do not walk into traffic lanes outside of the "coned off" work area.

Chippers

1. Use wheel blocks to chock the wheels of chippers before beginning any processing.

2. Stand to the side of the hopper opening when feeding the hopper.

3. Use your chain saw to cut long limbs to 6 foot or smaller lengths before putting them in the chipper.

4. Stop the chipper if you hear any uncommon sounds such as clanks or rattles which may indicate loose blades, nuts, or other parts.

Bucket Truck Operations

1. Do not touch the truck when the bucket is in operation.

2. If you are the remote bucket control operator, do not leave your controls while someone is in the bucket.

3. Do not drive the truck while someone is in the bucket.

4. Engage the parking brake and use the wheel blocks to chock the wheels before lifting anyone in the bucket.

TREE TRIMMERS

Climbing Techniques

1. No "free-style" climbing is permitted.

2. Once you are from the ground, tie your lanyard and climbing rope to the tree.

3. Do not use any ropes or saddles that are frayed or cut, have bent or broken clamps or are otherwise visibly damaged.

4. Do not tie your lanyard or climbing rope to broken or weak branches.

5. Store ropes, lanyards, and saddles in dry and clean areas.

6. Do not use ropes that are less than 1/2 inch in diameter.

7. "Double crotch" (tie in to a second lanyard) before operating the chain saw to prevent falls due to the kick of the saw.

8. "Crotch" around the main trunk of the tree.

9. Do not use a climbing rope as a lowering rope.

Ladders

1. Read and follow the manufacturer's instructions label affixed to the ladder if you are unsure how to use the ladder.

2. Do not use ladders that have loose rungs, cracked or split side rails, missing rubber foot pads, or other visible damage.

3. Allow only one person on the ladder at a time.

4. Face the ladder when climbing up or down.

5. Maintain a three-point contact by always keeping both hands and one foot or both feet and one hand on the ladder when climbing up or down.

6. When performing work from a ladder, face the ladder and do not lean backward or sideways from the ladder.

7. Do not stand on the top two rungs of any ladder.

8. When using a ladder, extend the top of the ladder at least 3 feet above the edge of the roof.

9. Secure the ladder in place by having another employee hold it.

10. Do not carry items in your hands while climbing up or down a ladder.

11. Do not try to "walk" a ladder by rocking it. Climb down the ladder, and then move it.

Bucket Truck Operations

1. Only bucket truck operators are to operate the bucket lift.

2. Keep the bucket at least 10 feet away from energized power lines.

3. Keep both feet on the floor of the bucket while working from the bucket. Do not climb on the bucket's edge.

4. Do not lean out of the bucket.

5. Do not operate the bucket during electrical storms or when lightning is seen, or thunder is heard.

6. Do not operate the bucket in windy weather.

7. Use the safety belt and lanyard when working from the bucket.

Proper Felling Technique

1. Using the chain saw, cut a triangular notch one quarter the diameter of the tree facing the direction you wish the tree to fall.

2. Make the back cut by boring a recess in the trunk approximately two inches above the bottom of the triangular notch by sawing forward to the holding hinge wood and then sawing backward until the saw is clear of the trunk.

3. If the tree is thick or if you are felling against the lean, place wedges in the back cut as you continue the back cut.

4. Establish an escape route free from obstructions at a 45m angle in the opposite direction of the planned tree fall before felling the tree.

5. After completing the back cut, engage the chain brake, shut the saw off, and retreat using the escape route. Do not turn your back on the falling tree.

Obtained from Toolboxtopics.com, Tree Services, https://www.toolboxtopics.com/menu\_programs.html (Accessed August 14, 2024).

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