

Safe Work Instruction - Tree Inspections on Council Owned or Managed Land

This SWI may not cover all possible hazards and risks and should be referred to as a control measure in the risk assessment process. Additional training may be required for high risk plant. Site and task may change required PPE.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE



High visibility clothing must worn



Foot protection must be worn



Protective body clothing must be worn

POTENTIAL HAZARDS AND RISKS

- Entanglement**
Entanglement in moving parts
- Shearing**
Body parts sheared between items of plant
- Struck by Moving Object**
Struck by falling object
- Exposure to High Pressure Fluid**
Injury from exposure to high pressure fluids
- Manual Task Injury**
Manual task injury from awkward body posture
- Confrontational People**
- Explosion**
Explosion of gases, vapours or liquids
- Cutting, Stabbing or Puncturing**
Injury from sharp or flying object
- Slip, Trips, Falls**
Slip, trip, fall due to uneven or slippery work surfaces
- Electrical Shock or Burn**
Electrical shock or burn from plant contact with live electrical conductors
- Snakes, ticks, animals**

PRE-OPERATIONAL SAFETY CHECKS

- ✓ Complete site specific risk assessment
- ✓ Complete the appropriate pre-operational plant checklist if applicable
- ✓ Ensure you are familiar with plant operations and controls
- ✓ Ensure that guards are fitted, secured and functional in accordance with manufacturers guidelines
- ✓ Seat belt to be worn (use this when applicable)

OPERATING PROCEDURES

- ✓ Wear Personal Protective Equipment appropriate to the location. This could include a hi-vis vest, hat, sunscreen and appropriate footwear.
- ✓ Locate tree in question and park vehicle at a safe distance from the tree and traffic.
- ✓ Make a visual assessment of the site to identify any hazards such as traffic and pedestrians, long grass, uneven and slippery ground, trip hazards, wind direction and strength and tree debris both on the ground and in the tree.
- ✓ Apply insect repellent if inspecting in a bushland area to reduce the likelihood of tick or mosquito bites.
- ✓ When inspecting the tree in question carry your mobile phone or communication device, be constantly aware of the surrounds, unconstrained dogs and previously identified hazards and possible hazards such as snakes, spiders, trip points deadwood in tree broken glass and syringes.
- ✓ Inspect the tree from several different angles if it is safe to do so.
- ✓ If a tree is identified as posing an imminent threat to persons, contact the relevant Parks or Roads Supervisor to have the area isolated and made safe. This could include barricading and signage.

- ✓ If any tree limbs need to be moved, carefully assess the associated risks including, but not limited to, the weight of the limb, size and any protruding twigs using the correct manual handling techniques.

ENDING OPERATIONS

- ✓ Allow plant to cool before performing any maintenance, refuelling or cleaning
- ✓ Refuel plant at least 3 metres from combustibles
- ✓ Ensure plant is in good working order and stored in the appropriate location