

# Tree Trimming and Clearing Safety



1. Before climbing any tree, employee must thoroughly inspect the tree and its surroundings to acquaint themselves with all possible hazards.
  - a. They shall see that sufficient help, protective equipment, and tools are available, and that they are used to protect themselves, the public, equipment, or property.
2. Proper tools shall be used and maintained in good condition.
  - a. Only good grade nonconductive rope shall be used.
  - b. The smallest size rope permitted in tree work shall be ½ inch in diameter.
3. Suitable clothing shall be worn by an employee doing continuous tree trimming. In general, the clothing recommended is:
  - a. Insulated hard hats
  - b. High-topped leather shoes or boots
  - c. Gauntlet gloves
  - d. Snug-fitting jackets (sleeves will be kept rolled down at all times).
4. All tree trimming workers should be able to tie the common knots and know when to use them.
5. Trees shall not be worked on when wet due to slippery condition of bark.
  - a. Electrical hazards are also greater in wet trees.
6. Trees shall not be worked on during high winds, or when a lightning storm is approaching or in progress.
  - a. Workers shall not stay beneath trees during lightning storms.
7. In general, only one worker shall work in a tree at one time.
8. Danger signs, flags, or cones shall be placed on sidewalks, roadways or streets where any type of tree work is being done.
  - a. Dangerous areas must be roped off.
9. All tree trimming workers shall use standard lifelines or belts and safety harnesses at all times when working off the ground.
10. When safety slings and lifelines are used, every rope must be thoroughly inspected before each use.
  - a. Discard any unsafe or questionable rope.
11. Kinking is one of the main causes of injury to rope and shall be eliminated, especially when rope is wet.
12. A rope shall not be “burned” by allowing it to run through a crotch too rapidly.
  - a. Care shall be used to avoid dropping cigarettes on a rope.
13. Rope, which has become wet, shall be dried thoroughly before being stored.
14. All rope shall be kept coiled when not in use.
  - a. It shall never be stored or transported where sharp tools may cut it.
15. Rope must never be dragged over rough surfaces.
  - a. Avoid sharp bends over unyielding objects.