

CREW DETAILS

IN AN EMERGENCY CALL:

Team Lead:	Task Phone Number:
Crew:	

TASK OVERVIEW

Purpose of Task:	Date of Task:
Task Benefit: Creates space for new planting or site redevelopment. Eliminates recurring maintenance problems at source. Improves solar access and reduces excessive shading. Provides timber for reuse, milling, or habitat structures. Removes unstable or unsuitable trees to protect people and property.	

HAZARDS

HAZARD	RISK	RISK BENEFIT	MEASURE	RISK TO	RISK LEVEL
Anchor point and climbing system failure	Fall from height, pendulum swing, cut rope near saw	Provides secure canopy access without heavy plant reliance.	Select primary and backup anchors in sound wood; inspect unions and decay; maintain three points of attachment when repositioning; manage lanyard away from the cut; never cut near life support; pre climb checks and rescue plan confirmed; avoid poor rope angles and friction burns. (ALL)	climber	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med
Barber-chair in vertical stems	Catastrophic stem split, whipping butt, severe crush injuries	Allows safe felling of compromised stems that threaten access or assets.	Assess for tension, decay and species prone to splitting; use wide open face and sufficient hinge; avoid forcing cuts; employ bore cut technique correctly; pre tension with winch where needed; monitor signs of lift and stop to re plan; keep all staff out of arc. (ALL)	climber, ground crew	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med

HAZARD	RISK	RISK BENEFIT	MEASURE	RISK TO	RISK LEVEL
Chainsaw operation	Lacerations from chain, kickback, cuts to supporting leg, burns during refuelling	Delivers precise cutting quality essential for arboricultural standards.	Limit saw use to trained certified operators; pre use check chain brake, throttle lock and chain catch; maintain sharp chain and correct tension; select bar length for task; two handed grip and stable stance; avoid cutting above shoulder; refuel cold in ventilated area with spill kit. (ALL)	climber, ground crew	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med
Crane lifting operations	Load drop, pinch points, crane overload, communication failure	Enables precision dismantling over structures with minimal damage and delay.	Provide a lift plan by a competent person; verify crane capacity, radius and rigging loads; exclude the swing zone; no riding the hook; maintain radio contact and agreed signals; fit taglines to control load; observe wind limits; stop the lift if communication degrades. (ALL)	crew, operator, public, property	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med
Falling timber and crown debris	Head injury from falling limbs, impact to body, damage to assets, roaming debris	Minimises collateral damage so dismantling can proceed at pace.	Create a robust drop zone and enforce hard hat area; pre prune to reduce unexpected breaks; use taglines to steer; stage two stage warnings before every cut; stop saws if anyone enters zone; stow tools; align clear calls and whistles; pause if wind gusts increase. (ALL)	climber, ground crew, public, property	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med
Fell direction and escape routes	Struck by falling stem, hit by uncontrolled swing, trapped on stump, collision during retreat	Enables controlled removal that protects people and property while keeping the job efficient.	Plan felling with method statement; confirm lean, wind and defects; mark hinge and two escape paths; clear footing; set exclusion zones with a banksman; use open face notch and correct back cut; maintain sight of crown; retreat along planned route on the go command. (ALL)	climber, ground crew, public, property	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med

HAZARD	RISK	RISK BENEFIT	MEASURE	RISK TO	RISK LEVEL
Hung-up trees and entanglement	Impact while dislodging, sudden release, trapped beneath lodged crown	Clears dangerous obstructions to restore safe access quickly.	Treat lodged stems as high risk; cordon area and appoint competent lead; use mechanical winch or pull line from distance; never work below the hang; do not climb the hung tree; re assess before further cuts; brief no go lines and swing radius; wait out winds. (ALL)	climber, ground crew, public	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med
Low light and night operations	Poor visibility leading to miscuts, missed signals, traffic conflict	Preserves situational awareness so accurate cuts and signals remain reliable.	Avoid dusk or night unless essential; if required, deploy glare free site lighting that does not blind the cutting plane; mark exclusion zones with illuminated barriers; ensure high visibility and reflective PPE; increase radio checks; pause if visibility drops below plan limits. (ALL)	crew, public, motorists	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med
Mewp operation near canopy	Ejection from basket, crush against limbs, tip on soft ground	Offers controlled access when climbing is unsuitable, improving productivity.	Use MEWP only where access and bearing capacity suit; complete pre use checks; wear harness and lanyard to anchor; set outriggers on firm level ground; keep platform outside cutting plane; appoint ground spotter; maintain distances from power lines; never tie in outside basket. (ALL)	operator, ground crew, public	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med
Overhead power lines	Electric shock, arcing, fire, network damage	Maintains legal clearances and continuity of supply while working safely.	Contact the network operator prior to work; mark safe approach distances; erect goalposts and barriers for plant; avoid felling toward lines; maintain agreed clearances; appoint a spotter; do not enter exclusion zones unless isolation and authorization are in place. (ALL)	climber, operator, public	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med

HAZARD	RISK	RISK BENEFIT	MEASURE	RISK TO	RISK LEVEL
Public interface and traffic management	Pedestrian struck by plant, vehicle collision, complaints	Protects road users and maintains community trust and permissions.	Create a traffic plan with signage, cones and barriers; segregate pedestrians; appoint banksman for plant; schedule closures if required; liaise with client and neighbors; brief polite engagement; stop saws when public enter the zone; document deviations. (ALL)	public, motorists, crew	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med
Rigging and lowering system failure	Load drop, rope snap, hardware failure, uncontrolled swing	Enables dismantling over targets where free fall is not possible.	Design rigging with rated components and sound anchors; calculate expected loads and friction; use lowering device and redirects; keep crew outside the bight; agree signals; avoid shock loading; inspect and retire damaged gear; record inspections and maintain load limits. (ALL)	climber, ground crew, property	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med
Tensioned lines and snap-back	Struck by recoiling rope, eye injuries, pulled into running line	Allows controlled pulls to steer fells and recover hangs safely.	Keep everyone out of line of fire; never straddle or step over tensioned lines; use rated winches and snatch blocks; stand at forty five degrees off the bight; de tension slowly and announce; inspect lines for damage; avoid shock loading; plan escape if hardware fails. (ALL)	ground crew, climber	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med
Weather and wind conditions	Loss of control in gusts, heat stress, cold stress, poor visibility	Keeps work in safe weather windows and avoids program disruption.	Monitor forecast and on site conditions; set wind and lightning stop limits; adjust felling plan for wind and lean; secure loose materials; provide hydration, shade and warm layers; review weather at start and midday; suspend works if thresholds are reached. (ALL)	climber, ground crew, public	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med

HAZARD	RISK	RISK BENEFIT	MEASURE	RISK TO	RISK LEVEL
Wood chipper operation	Entanglement at infeed, ejection of material, noise exposure	Reduces arisings rapidly for safer housekeeping and fewer manual moves.	Site chipper on level firm ground with safe discharge; train operators; wear close fitting clothing and no gauntlet gloves; feed butt end first from the side using long branches; keep hands beyond infeed line; test and use stop bars; isolate before clearing blockages with tools. (ALL)	ground crew, public	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med
Communication breakdown	Missed stop call, conflicting moves, delayed emergency response	Coordinates actions so complex dismantles proceed safely.	Agree hand signals, whistle codes and radio checks at briefing; appoint competent supervisor; deliver dynamic risk assessments; enable stop work authority for all staff; confirm emergency plan and precise location; log toolbox talk; deconflict simultaneous tasks. (ALL)	climber, ground crew, operators	Before Measure: Med After Measure: Low
Fuel, oils and fire	Burns, fire spread, ground contamination, slips on spills	Prevents pollution and fire while keeping equipment reliable.	Decant fuels in a designated area with spill kit; use approved containers and funnels; keep ignition sources away; cool saws before refuelling; store oils to prevent leaks; train spill response; dispose of waste via licensed routes; carry and check fire extinguisher. (ALL)	crew, environment, property	Before Measure: Med After Measure: Low
Manual handling of timber	Back strain, crushed feet, finger traps while stacking	Moves timber efficiently without excessive plant or injury.	Assess size and weight; split sections where practicable; use mechanical aids, tongs and team lifts; keep loads close and backs straight; avoid twisting; pre plan safe stacking and rolling zones; maintain gloves; never lift above comfortable height; rotate tasks to limit fatigue. (ALL)	ground crew	Before Measure: Med After Measure: Low

HAZARD	RISK	RISK BENEFIT	MEASURE	RISK TO	RISK LEVEL
Noise and vibration exposure	Hearing loss, tinnitus, hand arm vibration syndrome	Preserves worker health so skilled staff remain available.	Select low vibration tools and keep chains sharp; enforce hearing protection; limit trigger time with breaks; rotate tasks; monitor HAVS exposure; maintain antivibration mounts; brief crews on early symptoms and reporting; record exposure to manage long term health. (ALL)	climber, ground crew	Before Measure: Med After Measure: Low
Safeguarding and site security	Child or pet entering zone, theft of tools, unauthorized access	Protects householders and keeps the worksite orderly and compliant.	Control access with barriers and signage; brief client to keep people and pets indoors; secure gates; appoint site marshal at peak times; never leave saws or keys unattended; verify fitness and competence; maintain a visitors' sign-in and escort policy. (ALL)	public, clients, crew	Before Measure: Med After Measure: Low
Slips, trips and uneven ground	Falls on brash, twisted ankle, blocked escape route	Keeps teams steady and escape routes usable, sustaining pace.	Clear footing around base; stack brash to avoid rolling; wear chainsaw boots with grip; deploy matting or steps on mud and slopes; maintain housekeeping to keep escape routes open; illuminate in low visibility; stop work if underfoot stability deteriorates due to weather. (ALL)	climber, ground crew	Before Measure: Med After Measure: Low
Wildlife and protected species	Disturbance of bats or nesting birds, legal breach, site shutdown	Meets legal duties and protects biodiversity, enhancing client confidence.	Survey for protected species; time works to avoid breeding seasons; set buffer zones; retain habitat where possible; brief staff not to disturb hollows; pause if signs are found; consult ecologist or licensing authority before resuming; record decisions. (ALL)	crew, wildlife	Before Measure: Med After Measure: Low

HAZARD	RISK	RISK BENEFIT	MEASURE	RISK TO	RISK LEVEL
Unpredicted risks	Illness, injury, death		Continuous risk monitoring conducted by all staff. Any unforeseen hazards must be reported promptly to supervisors or management, with immediate corrective action taken as necessary. (ALL)	All	N/A

NOTES

Extra Notes & Activity Evaluation:

Completed by

Reviewed/Approved by

Risk Assessment Date

Review Required Date