

CREW DETAILS

IN AN EMERGENCY CALL:

Team Lead:

Task Phone Number:

Crew:

TASK OVERVIEW

Purpose of Task:

Date of Task:

Task Benefit: Improves structure and extends the life of mature trees. | Increases light levels for understory and lawns. | Maintains clearances for roads, paths, and utilities. | Reduces risk of limb failure near people and assets. | Removes diseased wood to limit pathogen spread.

HAZARDS

HAZARD	RISK	RISK BENEFIT	MEASURE	RISK TO	RISK LEVEL
Adverse weather	Lightning strike, wind throw, heat stress	Keeps jobs on schedule during safe weather windows.	Monitor forecasts, stop for lightning or high winds, and provide shade, hydration, or thermal gear as conditions require. Avoid wet bark where footing is compromised. (ALL)	Workers	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med
Chainsaw operations aloft	Cuts, lacerations, kickback, fall	Facilitates accurate pruning at height with reduced fall potential.	Only qualified climbers may use top-handled saws. Keep saws secured on lanyards, maintain two points of attachment, and avoid one-handed cuts unless justified by risk assessment. (ALL)	Workers	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med
Chainsaw operations on the ground	Cuts, lacerations, kickback, fuel fire	Ensures efficient ground processing of branches and arisings.	Wear full PPE, maintain sharp saws, and keep stable footing. Refuel in ventilated areas with spill control. Keep public and crew clear of exclusion zones. (ALL)	Workers, public	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med

HAZARD	RISK	RISK BENEFIT	MEASURE	RISK TO	RISK LEVEL
Climbing system setup and anchor selection	Anchor failure, fall, serious injury	Allows precise positioning in the canopy for safe and effective cuts.	Choose strong, healthy limbs as anchors and test under load. Use approved ropes and connectors, keeping friction devices managed. Adjust anchors as crown weight changes. (ALL)	Workers	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med
Communication failures and rescue readiness	Delayed rescue, miscommunication, serious injury	Ensures coordinated work and rapid response to incidents.	Establish hand signals, radios, and a nominated supervisor. Stage rescue kit at the base and designate trained rescuers. Run pre-start rescue drills. (ALL)	Workers	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med
Equipment inspection regime	Equipment failure, fall, injury	Ensures reliability of systems, keeping pruning and pollarding safe and efficient.	Check ropes, harnesses, MEWPs, and rigging gear before and during use. Quarantine faulty items, keep LOLER certificates up to date, and stop after shock-loads. (ALL)	Workers	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med
Falling timber and exclusion zones	Struck by falling wood, serious injury, property damage	Reduces risk to others while enabling safe removal of heavy branches.	Mark and enforce drop zones at least the canopy spread. Use a banksman to stop work if the zone is breached. Never cut above people or assets. (ALL)	Workers, public, bystanders	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med
Fragile surfaces and glazing	Broken glass, property damage, injury	Allows works in gardens and urban areas without damaging property.	Identify glasshouses, solar panels, or roofs nearby. Protect with mats or plywood, and adjust rigging to prevent swing. Stop work if protections fail. (ALL)	Workers, public	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med
Insect stings and anaphylaxis	Allergic reaction, anaphylaxis, pain	Keeps tree works possible during insect season while protecting staff health.	Check for insect activity, provide antihistamines and AAls for those with known allergies, and document emergency plans. Schedule return visits if nests must be avoided. (ALL)	Workers	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med

HAZARD	RISK	RISK BENEFIT	MEASURE	RISK TO	RISK LEVEL
Lack of training and competence	Incorrect tool use, poor judgement, increased accident risk	Builds a skilled workforce capable of safe and professional pruning and pollarding.	Ensure all staff hold industry-recognised qualifications for climbing, chainsaw use, rigging, and MEWP operation. Provide refresher training, supervised experience, and keep competency records updated. (ALL)	Workers	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med
Low light and visibility	Poor visibility, struck by moving object, trip hazard	Allows essential time-sensitive works during restricted daylight.	Prefer daylight; if unavoidable, use flood lighting, reflective signage, and high-vis clothing. Assign extra banksmen and simplify rigging plans. (ALL)	Workers, public	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med
Manual handling of timber	Back strain, crush injury, musculoskeletal disorder	Makes timber movement manageable without excessive strain.	Cut to manageable sizes, lift with correct posture, and use team lifts or aids like dollies. Plan set-down points and avoid twisting. (ALL)	Workers	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med
MEWP operations and emergency descent	Fall from platform, equipment collapse, crushing	Provides safe, controlled access to high branches when climbing is unsuitable.	Select the correct MEWP, inspect before use, and set outriggers on firm pads. Use harnesses correctly and brief crew on emergency descent. Keep exclusion zones around the swing radius. (ALL)	Workers, public	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med
Overhead power lines and utilities	Electrocution, fire, service damage	Enables safe clearance of vegetation threatening utilities.	Identify and mark all utilities before work. Keep safe distances, liaise with providers for shutdowns, and assign a spotter when near live services. (ALL)	Workers, public	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med
Pole saw operations	Struck by falling branch, overreach injury, cuts	Allows precise branch removal from the ground where climbing isn't justified.	Use only by trained staff, with stable footing and two-hand grip. Maintain drop zones, avoid overreaching, and stop the saw to reposition. Rotate tasks to reduce fatigue. (ALL)	Workers, public	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med

HAZARD	RISK	RISK BENEFIT	MEASURE	RISK TO	RISK LEVEL
Rigging and controlled lowering	Swinging timber, struck by load, property damage	Permits controlled removal of heavy timber sections without damage to people or property.	Use rated rigging gear sized to loads, employ friction devices, and taglines for swing control. Keep exclusion zones clear and brief crew on rope commands. (ALL)	Workers, public	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med
Slips, trips and unstable footing	Slips, trips, falls	Preserves mobility and keeps teams productive on varied terrain.	Clear brush, use mats on mud, and wear boots with grip. Prohibit running and use steps or ramps where slopes are steep. Keep rigging tails tidy. (ALL)	Workers	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med
Traffic interface near roads	Collision, struck by vehicle	Keeps tree care safe and legal on highways and driveways.	Prepare a traffic management plan with signage, cones, and barriers. Position vehicles as shields and assign lookouts. Work during off-peak hours where possible. (ALL)	Workers, public	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med
Tree defects and unpredictable loads	Anchor failure, timber snap, fall	Prevents tree failure while enabling safe remedial work.	Inspect for cavities, cracks, and fungal decay. Adjust tie-ins and rigging accordingly. Avoid shock-loading weak wood. Reassess as cuts progress. (ALL)	Workers	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med
Vehicle loading and load security	Falling loads, road collision, crush injury	Enables compliant removal of timber and arisings off-site.	Stack timber and chip safely, use rated tie-downs, and avoid overhanging loads. Inspect restraints before departure and never allow crew to ride on trailers. (ALL)	Workers, public	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med
Wood chipper operations	Entanglement, crushing, noise injury	Provides rapid, safe site clearance and reduces manual handling of arisings.	Position on firm ground, cordon the area, and assign a trained operator. Feed butt-first, never reach into infeed, and stop engine before clearing blockages. Discharge away from public and traffic. (ALL)	Workers	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med
Work near watercourses or steep banks	Drowning, falls, entrapment	Enables management of riverside and bankside trees threatening infrastructure.	Mark unstable edges, install mats or ropes, and keep buoyancy aids on site. Avoid working during floods and brief escape routes. (ALL)	Workers	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med

HAZARD	RISK	RISK BENEFIT	MEASURE	RISK TO	RISK LEVEL
Working at height in the canopy	Fall from height, serious injury, fatality	Enables controlled canopy access for pruning and pollarding, improving tree health and safety.	Plan canopy access with secure tie-in points, maintain two points of attachment, and use backup systems. Inspect anchors before and during work, adapting as loads shift. Maintain clear communication with the ground crew. (ALL)	Workers	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med
Airborne dust and spores	Respiratory irritation, eye injury	Enables essential pruning while reducing respiratory irritation.	Work upwind, use dampening where practical, and provide RPE and eye protection. Keep chains sharp to reduce fine dust. Avoid blowing debris toward others. (ALL)	Workers	Before Measure: Med After Measure: Low
Biosecurity and sap irritants	Spread of disease, skin irritation, eye injury	Prevents disease spread while enabling responsible tree management.	Clean tools and boots between sites. Identify harmful saps and provide gloves, sleeves, and eyewear. Bag and contain diseased arisings. (ALL)	Workers	Before Measure: Med After Measure: Low
Hand-arm vibration	Havs, numbness, long-term injury	Allows efficient mechanised cutting with controlled health risk.	Monitor trigger times, rotate operators, and maintain tools to minimise vibration. Provide warm-up routines and encourage early reporting of symptoms. (ALL)	Workers	Before Measure: Med After Measure: Low
Noise exposure	Hearing damage, tinnitus	Protects hearing while enabling use of powered tools.	Provide hearing protection, rotate tasks to limit exposure, and maintain equipment to reduce noise. Warn neighbours where appropriate. (ALL)	Workers	Before Measure: Med After Measure: Low
Protected wildlife and nesting	Disturbance of wildlife, legal breach	Balances essential tree works with biodiversity protection.	Survey for nests and roosts before starting. Pause or adapt work if evidence is found and seek ecologist advice if required. Retain habitat features where safe. (ALL)	Workers, public	Before Measure: Med After Measure: Low
Public safeguarding and site security	Public injury, trespass, tool misuse	Builds community trust and prevents injury while work proceeds.	Fence or tape off work zones, assign marshals for public interactions, and lock off tools during breaks. Stop work immediately if barriers are breached. (ALL)	Public, bystanders	Before Measure: High 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