

PLEASE READ THIS WORKING METHOD STATEMENT CAREFULLY
BEFORE WORKING WITH CHAINSAWS AND TIMBER CONSTRUCTION
IF YOU ARE UNSURE ABOUT ANYTHING - ASK AT THE SITE OFFICE

What does this method statement apply to?

1. The following method statement has been developed to provide a safe system of work and must be adhered to at all times, any significant deviation from this system must first be discussed with the site manager.
2. Only competent persons should undertake any work in this area of operation.

What equipment do I need (where applicable)?

1. All site workers will wear Safety boots, protective clothing at all times, other items of PPE such as eye protection and gloves should be worn as and when necessary.
2. All individuals including ground staff should wear full chainsaw protective clothing during chainsaw work.
3. Everyone who works at height should wear a safety harness.
4. It is your responsibility to ensure all items of PPE are looked after properly and not subject to unnecessary damage.

What Hazards or Risks should I be aware of?

1. Falls from height
2. Injury from slips trips and falls.
3. Manual Handling
4. Contact with overhead power lines
5. Injury to members of the public during works
6. Contact with children
7. Injury from machine hazards
8. Inclement weather
9. Vehicle and pedestrian traffic

What working methods should I adopt to reduce these risks?

1. You must be “competent” to carry out the task.
2. You must hold the correct certification to carry out the task.
3. Barriers and/or warning signs must be placed around the work area where risk assessments has deemed necessary
4. Visitors and other members of staff are prohibited from entry unless accompanied by competent person, all visitors issued supervised during visit
5. You must be competent to operate tree surgery machinery and hold the correct certification.
6. You must read and understand the information sheets on the machinery you are operating
7. When working at height, never work alone. Please see method statement “WMS003 – Working at Height” for details.

General Precautions

Staff & Training

You should be experienced in the tasks you are undertaking, young and inexperienced workers should be closely supervised at all times.

PPE

All site workers will wear Safety boots, protective clothing at all times, other items of PPE such as eye protection and gloves should be worn as and when necessary. All individuals including ground staff should wear full chainsaw protective clothing during chainsaw work. Everyone who works at height should wear a safety harness. It is your responsibility to ensure all items of PPE are looked after properly and not subject to unnecessary damage.

Preparation & Induction

A risk assessment should be carried out for all tasks and discussed with other members of the team, any sub-contractors should supply method statements for their area of work.

Machine Safety & Maintenance

Machines such as chainsaws, chippers and stump grinders to be visually inspected on a daily basis before start up; all machines to be serviced on a weekly basis and checked for safe operation. **Under no circumstances should any machines be left unattended at any time.**

Manual Handling

Everyone should understand the potential dangers of manual handling, and have received manual handling training. No one should lift items of tools or equipment beyond their capabilities. Trees will be sawn into manageable sized pieces for lowering and handling. Heavy or awkward items of equipment will be broken down into smaller pieces or dual lifted where this is not possible.

First Aid

It is your responsibility to ensure adequate first aid provision for its staff and contractors; Adequate means provision of suitable first aid equipment and the provision of an appointed person at the minimum. It may be necessary to appoint a suitably qualified first aider where a risk assessment has highlighted the need for one.

Access egress

You are responsible for providing safe access and egress to the site and ensure safe access and egress is maintained for yourself and other contractors/members of the public in the area you are working in. Debris will be cleared away on a regular basis and the site left clean and tidy at the end of a shift or task.

Working Near Overhead Power Lines

Occasionally you may find yourself working near overhead power lines. Work should not be carried out within 75 metres of un-insulated - and 20 metres of insulated - overhead power lines unless you have received the appropriate permit to work signed off by both the site manager and local electricity board supplier. The permit to work shall not be signed off until the electricity board have confirmed the power lines have been made safe.

Ladders; ladders will only be used as an access to scaffold or for carrying out light work of short duration. Ladders must be tied and or footed.

Scaffold; If using scaffold it should be erected by an approved contractor; the hand rail will extend a minimum 1 metre above the working area. All work will be carried out from the

Aluminium tower scaffold; Ensure that Aluminium Tower Scaffolds are erected correctly by a competent person. Aluminium tower scaffolds must be used on flat level ground and the stabiliser riggers must be fully deployed and secured prior to working from the tower.

Detail

Scope of Works

- a) Trimming down
- b) Complete tree removal
- c) Chainsaw carving
- d) Construction of wooden structures ie. Treehouses and platforms

Works

- 1) Get all your equipment prepared
- 2) Discuss with others what you plan to do
- 3) Put on your personal protective equipment if required
- 4) Area to be worked will be marked out with warning signs and safety tape if necessary
- 5) Check for hazards
- 6) The site to be worked will be visually inspected for safety of operation, the location of power lines, telephone cables, vehicles etc should be noted and the area made safe before work commences
- 7) Visually inspect the equipment and remove from service if there are any obvious faults
- 8) Put on your safety harness and chainsaw protection clothing
- 9) Erect access to tree ascend and fix harness to a suitable branch
- 10) Start the equipment and check all safety features are operating correctly; **you must not attempt to defeat any safety function nor use any equipment with damaged or malfunctioning safety features.**
- 11) Trim/dismantle the tree as required
- 12) Lower branches etc to ground using rope
- 13) Ensure the site remains clear of persons/children, if not then stop work until the site is clear again
- 14) At the completion of sawing, stop the engine and ensure the safety cut off is engaged
- 15) Clear all debris to a designated area or load to a vehicle for removal
- 16) Remove the safety warning signs and ensure the area is left in a safe condition

Refuelling Procedure for petrol driven equipment

Petrol for the machines should be carried in explosion-proof metal containers - secured in vans.

- 1) Machines will be refuelled away from the van, visitors, and members of the public.
- 2) Smoking is not permitted during refuelling and operation of the machines.
- 3) Fuel is poured from the proprietary containers through a funnel into the machine tank
- 4) Caution will be exercised to prevent overfilling and spillages, all spillages will be cleared up immediately.
- 5) Return the petrol can to the van and ensure it is clamped in position and the van locked