Solutions for Tree Care Hazards

- Aerial Lift Safety
- Electrical Wire Safety
- Chipper Safety
- Drop Zone Safety
- Traffic Control Safety
## Risk Factors

- Brief workers on traffic zone safety and site setup.
- Develop traffic control plans that include the proper use of control devices. See the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.
- Use cones, barricades, and flaggers to guide vehicles and pedestrian traffic through or around the traffic zone.
- Wear high visibility vests.
- If operations interfere with traffic, use certified flaggers to help manage traffic.
- Provide pedestrians a safe route away from activity area.
- Use lights at night.

## Prevention Tips

- Use cones or caution barrier tape to establish, mark, and manage the drop zone.
- Provide training on drop zone entry and exit procedures.
- Wear a hard hat and eye protection.
- Allow only qualified workers near the drop zone.
- Establish and maintain visual or audible communication between overhead and ground workers.
- Use verbal command and response exchanges, such as the command “stand clear” from the worker aloft and the response “all clear” from persons below, before cutting and dropping limbs.
- Use cones, caution barrier tape, and verbal command and response exchanges, such as “all clear” from persons below, before cutting and dropping limbs.
- Wear close-fitting clothing, gloves with cuffs, and skid-resistant shoes.
- Stow all ropes and lines away from moving power equipment.
- Use cone or caution barrier tape around drop zone.
- Wear personal protective equipment.
- Use verbal command and response exchanges.

## Drop Zones

- Allow only qualified workers near the drop zone.
- Establish and maintain visual or audible communication between overhead and ground workers.
- Use verbal command and response exchanges.

## Chippers

- Train workers to inspect and operate chippers.
- Always follow the manufacturer’s instructions.
- Make sure that safety guards, controls, and emergency shut-off devices are working properly.
- Wear safety glasses, a hard hat and hearing protection.
- Wear close-fitting clothing, gloves with cuffs, and skid-resistant shoes.
- Use cone or caution barrier tape around drop zone.
- Wear personal protective equipment.
- Use verbal command and response exchanges.

## Aerial Lifts

- Always follow manufacturer’s instructions.
- Allow only qualified and trained workers to operate aerial lifts.
- Inspect the lift and worksite before each use.
- Set outriggers on pads or on a level, solid surface.
- Use cone or caution barrier tape around drop zone.
- Wear personal protective equipment.
- Use verbal command and response exchanges.

## Power Lines

- Train workers to identify and avoid power line hazards, before beginning work.
- Treat all overhead power lines and communication cables as energized. Stay at least 10 feet (3 meters) away, unless specifically qualified.
- Wear personal protective equipment.
- Use verbal command and response exchanges.
- Do not trim trees in dangerous weather conditions.
- Do not use corded electric power tools in trees near energized power lines.
- Never use ladders made of metal or other conductive materials near overhead power lines. Only use wooden ladders or those made of synthetic material.

## Links

- **Highway Work Zones Topics Page**
- **Tree Care Topics Page**
- **Wood Chipper Safety and Health Bulletin**
- **Aerial Lifts Fact Sheet**
- **Electricity and Tree Care Work**