Solutions for Tree Care Hazards

- Aerial Lift Safety
- Electrical Wire Safety
- Chipper Safety
- Drop Zone Safety
- Traffic Control Safety
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<th>Traffic Control</th>
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<td>Vehicle and pedestrian traffic control safety measures are essential to tree care operations. Workers can be struck by moving vehicles and the traffic zone could interfere with pedestrian traffic.</td>
<td>Workers can be struck by falling trees, tree limbs, and hand tools. These falling objects have enough force to cause serious or even fatal injuries to workers.</td>
<td>Chipper hazards arise when workers manually push material or lean too far into the chipper hopper. Workers can be injured by material thrown from the machine. Chippers also produce hazardous noise levels.</td>
<td>Workers can fall or be thrown from an elevated bucket. The major causes of injuries and fatalities involving aerial lifts are falls, electrocutions, and equipment collapses or tip-overs.</td>
<td>Workers can be electrocuted when a tree limb, branch, or uninsulated aerial lift touches or comes into contact with a live electrical power line.</td>
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</table>

### 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.
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### 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**

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(800) 321-OSHA (6742)

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