

GROUNDWORKER UTILITY ARBORICULTURE

JOB DESCRIPTION

The groundworker position is often the introductory level in the utility arboriculture profession. Duties include assisting climbers, chipping brush, cutting wood, and site cleanup after utility tree care operations.

TYPICAL BACKGROUND

Workers entering at this level usually do not have any background in arboriculture.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Workers must be in good physical condition. A high school diploma is preferred but not always required. The acquisition of a Commercial Drivers License (CDL) may be required.



EDUCATION/TRAINING NEEDS

- Orientation to the tree care profession
- General work site safety and hazard recognition
- Electric hazard awareness
- Electrical theory
- Selection and use of appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Back injury prevention
- Vehicle safety, safe operation, and safe driving
- Understanding work orders and plans
- Job briefings
- Emergency procedures
- Chain saw use and safety
- Chipper use and safety
- Basic knots and rope operation for rigging
- Proper equipment use and maintenance
- Pruning principles and techniques
- Tree identification

EDUCATION TRAINING MATERIALS

- NAA/ISA Video Training Series and Workbook: *Basic Training for Ground Operations in Tree Care*
- ISA ArborMaster Video Series and Workbook: *Chain Saw Use and Safety*
- ANSI Z133.1 Safety Standards
- NAA Tailgate Safety Program
- Electrical Hazards Awareness Program
- NAA Pocket Guides: *Preventing Falls, Safe Tree Felling, Identifying Hazard Tress, Preventing Struck Bys Preventing Electrocution*
- NAA Video: *Back Injury Prevention*
- NAA Video: *Chipper Use and Safety*
- FANDEX Tree Identification Guide
- Tree Care Specialist Training Program
- OSHA 29CFR 1910.269.
- ISA: *A Handbook of Hazard Tree Evaluation for Utility Arborists*
- Shigo: *Pruning Trees Near Electric Utility Lines*

CERTIFICATION/LICENSES

Commercial Drivers License (CDL) recommended

TYPICAL FUTURE CAREER PATHS

Groundworkers usually progress to the position of line clearance tree worker (climber and/or aerial lift operator), crew foreperson, or pre-inspector. Some workers may switch to other aspects of tree care such as commercial or municipal arboriculture.