Career Paths in Arboriculture

Safety Coordinator Residential | Commercial Tree Care

**Job Description**

Safety coordinators are responsible for developing and maintaining strong integrated safety programs within a company. This includes written policies, an ongoing training program, site inspections, and record keeping.

**Typical Background**

Safety coordinators often start their careers in a tree crew. Many have formal education in arboriculture. Most are very active in professional organizations because of the need to stay abreast of the latest regulations, equipment, and techniques.

**Eligibility Requirement**

Strong communication, management, and leadership skills are essential. Many companies require ISA Certified Arborist® credential, and some recommend or require ISA Certified Tree Worker Climber Specialist® and ISA Certified Tree Worker Aerial Lift Specialist® credentials.

**Education/Training Needs**

- Basic management training
- Cabling and bracing
- Chain saw use and safety
- Chipper use and safety
- Communication skills
- Diagnostic training
- Emergency procedures
- General work site safety
- Hazard recognition
- Job briefings
- Lightning protection
- Proper equipment use and maintenance
- Pruning principles and techniques
- Tree biology
- Tree identification proficiency
- Work orders and work plan preparation

**Education/Training Materials**

- An Illustrated Guide to Pruning (Gilman)
- ANSI A300 Standards for Tree Care Operations (or applicable national standards)
- ANSI Z133 Safety Standard for Arboricultural Operations (or applicable national standard)
- Arboriculture and the Law (Merullo and Valentine)
- Arborists’ Certification Study Guide (ISA)
- Arborists’ Knots for Climbing and Rigging DVD and Workbook (ISA)
- ArborMaster® Training Video Series (ISA)
- Best Management Practices Series (ISA)
- Chain Saw Safety and Field Maintenance (Eckert)
- Diseases of Trees and Shrubs (Sinclair and Lyon)
- Online Learning Center: Arborist Ropes (ISA)
- Tree Climbers’ Guide (ISA)
- Tree Risk Assessment Manual (ISA)

**Certification/Licenses**

ISA Certified Arborist® is required. ISA Certified Tree Worker Climber Specialist®, ISA Certified Tree Worker Aerial Lift Specialist® and ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualification credentials, and Commercial Driver’s License are recommended.

**Typical Future Career Paths**

Safety coordinators may remain in this position, switch to tree care/equipment salesperson, or move up to tree care company manager/executive, or become the company owner.

For information on ISA Certifications and additional education training materials, please access http://www.isa-arbor.com/certification/benefits/credentialsExplained.aspx