

## Tree Climber (Residential | Commercial)

### JOB DESCRIPTION

CLIMBERS IN RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL tree care segments have as main duties pruning trees of various sizes and types, and identifying pruning needs. Climbers also must be skilled in removal techniques, cabling and bracing, and sometimes the installation of lightning protection. A climber must also be proficient with a chain saw and should possess all of the skills and training of a groundworker.

### TYPICAL BACKGROUND

With few exceptions, climbers begin their careers in arboriculture as groundworkers.



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### ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT

Although not required, most climbers have a high school diploma. Many companies will require a Commercial Driver's License (CDL). Climbers must be in excellent physical condition.

### EDUCATION/TRAINING NEEDS

- ✓ Advanced chain saw use and felling techniques
- ✓ Advanced climbing techniques and equipment
- ✓ Back injury prevention
- ✓ Basic knots and rope operation for rigging
- ✓ Basic tree biology
- ✓ Beginning diagnostic training
- ✓ Cabling and bracing
- ✓ Chipper use and safety
- ✓ Electrical hazards training
- ✓ Emergency procedures
- ✓ General work site safety
- ✓ Hazard recognition
- ✓ Job briefings
- ✓ Lightning protection
- ✓ Pruning principles and techniques
- ✓ Rope operation for rigging
- ✓ Selection and use of appropriate PPE
- ✓ Tree identification
- ✓ Understanding work orders and plans
- ✓ Vehicle safety, safe operation, and driving

### 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)
- ✓ *Arborists' Certification Study Guide* (ISA)
- ✓ *Arborists' Knots for Climbing and Rigging DVD and Workbook* (ISA)
- ✓ *ArborMaster® Training Video Series* (ISA)
- ✓ *Best Management Practice Series* (ISA)
- ✓ *Chain Saw Safety and Field Maintenance* (Eckert)
- ✓ Electrical Hazards Awareness Program
- ✓ *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants* (Dirr)
- ✓ *To Fell a Tree: A Complete Guide to Successful Tree Felling and Woodcutting Methods* (Jepson)
- ✓ *The Art and Science of Practical Rigging – DVD and Book Set* (ISA)
- ✓ *Tree Climbers' Guide* (ISA)
- ✓ *Tree Risk Assessment Manual* (ISA)

### CERTIFICATION/LICENSES

ISA Certified Arborist®, ISA Certified Tree Worker Climber Specialist® and ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualification credentials are recommended. CDL is required.

### TYPICAL FUTURE CAREER PATHS

Climbers usually progress to the position of foreperson/supervisor, or switch to aerial lift operator.