

Aerial Lift Operator Municipal Arboriculture

JOB DESCRIPTION

MUNICIPAL AERIAL LIFT OPERATORS participate in all aspects of tree work for the community. Duties primarily include street or park tree pruning and removal. In some situations, work duties include tree planting, hazard tree assessment, and insect and disease control. Work may also include other landscape and non-arboricultural duties.

TYPICAL BACKGROUND

Individuals becoming aerial lift operators have most likely worked in the industry in another capacity such as groundworkers or climbers.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT

Commercial Driver's License (CDL) is required. High school diploma is preferred.



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EDUCATION/TRAINING NEEDS

- ✓ Advanced chain saw use and felling techniques
- ✓ Aerial lift operation training
- ✓ Basic knots and rope operation for rigging
- ✓ 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
- ✓ Proper equipment use and maintenance
- ✓ Pruning principles and techniques
- ✓ Selection and use of appropriate PPE
- ✓ Tree identification and basic tree biology
- ✓ Understanding work orders and plans
- ✓ Vehicle safety, safe operation, and driving

EDUCATION TRAINING MATERIALS

- ✓ *A Photographic Guide to the Evaluation of Hazard Trees in Urban Areas* (Matheny and Clark)
- ✓ *An Illustrated Guide to Pruning* (Gilman) and *Workbook* (ISA)
- ✓ *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*
- ✓ *ArborMaster® Training Video Series* (ISA)
- ✓ *Best Management Practice: Pruning* (ISA)
- ✓ *Best Management Practice: Tree Support Systems* (ISA)
- ✓ *Chain Saw Safety and Field Maintenance* (Eckert)
- ✓ *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants* (Dirr)
- ✓ *The Practical Science of Planting Trees* (Watson and Himelick)
- ✓ *Tree Risk Assessment Manual* (ISA)

CERTIFICATION/LICENSES

ISA Certified Arborist[®], ISA Certified Tree Worker Aerial Lift Specialist[®] and ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualification credentials are recommended. CDL is required.

TYPICAL FUTURE CAREER PATHS

Municipal aerial lift operators usually progress to positions of foreman or supervisor. Some workers may switch to other aspects of tree care such as commercial or utility operations.