

Tree Climber (Municipal)

JOB DESCRIPTION

A MUNICIPAL TREE CLIMBER participates in all aspects of tree work for the community. Duties will primarily include street or park tree pruning and removals. In some situations, work duties can also include tree planting, hazard tree assessment, diagnosis, and pest control. Work may also include other landscape and non-arboricultural duties.

TYPICAL BACKGROUND

Individuals becoming climbers likely have worked in the industry, usually as a groundworker.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT

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



Claudia Coleoni

EDUCATION/TRAINING NEEDS

- ✓ Advanced chain saw use and felling techniques
- ✓ Advanced climbing techniques and equipment
- ✓ 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
- ✓ 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

- ✓ *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)
- ✓ *The ABCs Field Guide to Young and Small Tree Pruning* (Pleninger and Luley)
- ✓ *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. State Pesticide Applicator License is often required.

TYPICAL FUTURE CAREER PATHS

Municipal tree climbers usually progress to positions of aerial lift operators, forepersons, and supervisors. Some workers may switch to other aspects of tree care such as commercial or utility operations.