

Aerial Lift Operator Utility Arboriculture

JOB DESCRIPTION

AERIAL LIFT OPERATOR is a journeyman-level position in the utility arboriculture profession. Duties include pruning trees for line clearance, tree removal, felling, and can include herbicide and tree growth regulator application. Aerial lift operators may also be climbers.

TYPICAL BACKGROUND

Workers typically begin as groundworkers then complete an established apprenticeship.



EDUCATION/TRAINING NEEDS

- ✓ Aerial lift operations
- ✓ Back injury prevention
- ✓ Basic knots and rope operation for rigging
- ✓ Chain saw use and safety
- ✓ Chipper use and safety
- ✓ Electric hazard awareness
- ✓ Electrical theory
- ✓ Emergency procedures
- ✓ General work site safety
- ✓ Hazard recognition
- ✓ Herbicide and tree growth regulators
- ✓ Job briefings
- ✓ Orientation to the tree care profession
- ✓ Pruning principles and techniques
- ✓ Selection and use of appropriate PPE
- ✓ Tree identification
- ✓ 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)
- ✓ *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: Pruning (ISA)*
- ✓ *Chain Saw Safety and Field Maintenance* (Eckert)
- ✓ *Electrical Hazards Awareness Program*
- ✓ *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants* (Dirr)
- ✓ OSHA Regulations—1910.268, 1910.269 (or applicable national working safety regulations)
- ✓ *Tree Risk Assessment Manual (ISA)*
- ✓ *Utility Specialist Certification Study Guide (ISA)*

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT

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

CERTIFICATION/LICENSES

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

TYPICAL FUTURE CAREER PATHS

Aerial lift operators usually progress to the position of foreperson/supervisor. They may also progress to pre-inspector, or other management positions. Some workers may switch to other aspects of tree care such as commercial or municipal.