Career Paths in Arboriculture

Groundworker
Utility Arboriculture

**JOB DESCRIPTION**

The groundworker position is often the introductory level in the utility arboriculture profession. Duties include assisting climbers, chipping brush, cutting wood, and site cleanup after utility tree care operations.

**TYPICAL BACKGROUND**

Workers entering at this level usually do not have any background in arboriculture.

**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT**

A high school diploma is recommended. A Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) may be required.

**EDUCATION/TRAINING NEEDS**

- Back injury prevention
- Basic knots and rope operation for rigging
- Chain saw use and safety
- Chipper use and safety driving
- Electric hazard awareness
- Electrical theory
- Emergency procedures
- General work site safety
- Hazard recognition
- Job briefings
- Orientation to the tree care profession
- Proper equipment use and maintenance
- Pruning principles and techniques
- Selection and use of appropriate PPE
- Tree identification
- Understanding work orders and plans
- Vehicle safety, safe operation, and safe driving

**EDUCATION TRAINING MATERIALS**

- Arborist Equipment: A Guide to the Tools and Equipment of Tree Maintenance and Removal (Blair)
- Arborists’ Knots for Climbing and Rigging DVD and Workbook (ISA)
- ArborMaster® Training Video Series (ISA)
- Basic Training for Ground Operations in Tree Care DVD and Workbook (ISA and TCIA)
- Best Management Practices Series (ISA)
- Chain Saw Safety and Field Maintenance (Eckert)
- Electrical Hazards Awareness Program
- Glossary of Arboricultural Terms 2013 Edition (ISA)
- Introduction to Arboriculture Training Series (ISA)
- Manual of Woody Landscape Plants (Dirr)
- The ABCs Field Guide to Young and Small Tree Pruning (Pleninger and Luley)
- To Fell A Tree: A Complete Guide to Successful Tree Felling and Woodcutting methods (Jepson)
- Tree Risk Assessment Manual (ISA)

**CERTIFICATION/LICENSES**

CDL is recommended.

**TYPICAL FUTURE CAREER PATHS**

Groundworkers usually progress to the position of line clearance tree worker (climber and/or aerial lift operator), crew foreperson, or pre-inspector. Some workers may switch to other aspects of tree care such as commercial or municipal arboriculture.

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