

Tree Climber (Utility Arboriculture)

JOB DESCRIPTION

TREE CLIMBERS IN UTILITY ARBORICULTURE possess a set of skills in electric utility pruning and electrical knowledge. Duties include pruning trees for line clearance, tree removal, and can include herbicide and tree growth regulator application. It is not unusual for climbers to also be aerial lift operators.

TYPICAL BACKGROUND

Workers typically begin as groundworkers and then complete an established apprenticeship.



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EDUCATION/TRAINING NEEDS

- ✓ 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
- ✓ Proper equipment use and maintenance
- ✓ Pruning principles and techniques
- ✓ Selection and use of appropriate PPE
- ✓ Tree climbing techniques
- ✓ Understanding work orders and plans

EDUCATION TRAINING MATERIALS

- ✓ *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 Practices Series* (ISA)
- ✓ Electrical Hazards Awareness Program
- ✓ *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants* (Dirr)
- ✓ OSHA Regulations—1910.268, 1910.269 (or applicable national working safety regulations)
- ✓ *The Art and Science of Practical Rigging – DVD and Book Set* (ISA)
- ✓ *Tree Climbers' Guide* (ISA)
- ✓ *Tree Risk Assessment Manual* (ISA)
- ✓ *Utility Pruning: A Video Guide DVD and Workbook* (ISA)
- ✓ *Utility Specialist Certification Study Guide* (ISA)

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.

CERTIFICATION/LICENSES

ISA Certified Arborist®, ISA Certified Tree Worker Climber Specialist® and ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualification credentials are recommended. CDL is required. Most states require certification of training to work near energized power lines.

TYPICAL FUTURE CAREER PATHS

Tree climbers usually progress to the position of foreperson/supervisor. They can also progress to pre-inspector or other management positions. Some workers may switch to other aspects of tree care such as commercial or municipal operations.