

Evaluator's name: _____

Candidate's name: _____

ISA Certified Tree Climber Skills Test Evaluation Form

A. PRE-CLIMB (STAGING AREA)

Task	Performance Criteria	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Notes
		Please Check	Please Circle	
REQUIRED EQUIPMENT Climber possesses required equipment that meets industry-accepted standards for the profession.	Required equipment: Hardhat, safety glasses, climbing rope, saddle, handsaw/scabbard, locking snaps/carabiners (must be double auto locking carabiners), rope tools, safety lanyard(s), work shoes and clothing. All equipment must meet industry-accepted standards for the profession. No points involved. Must have all approved equipment to proceed.		FAIL	
PRE-CLIMB INSPECTION EQUIPMENT Climber demonstrates pre-climb inspection of equipment and describes how the equipment will be used. Evaluator's comment: "Please demonstrate inspection of equipment."	The climber must inspect personal protective equipment (PPE) and climbing equipment to note potential excessive wear, degradation, or damage prior to usage. The climber must also explain to the evaluator how the equipment will be used during the assessment. If unsatisfactory, climber must not continue.		FAIL	
KNOTS & HITCHES Climber demonstrates tying one each of the following six knot types. *NOTE-MISS 3 KNOTS = FAIL	Each knot must be tied correctly on first attempt for a satisfactory mark. Candidate must correctly dress and set each knot. Attempt = handed to evaluator // Time limit on tying knots and hitches = 1 minute per knot/hitch		FAIL	
Attaching hardware (i.e., girth hitch, cow hitch with a better half, timber hitch)			1	
Termination knot (i.e., Buntline hitch, anchor hitch/anchor bend, double fisherman's bend/double fisherman's knot)			1	
End-line rigging termination knot (i.e., clove hitch with two halves, running bowline)			1	
Rigging rope joining knot (i.e., sheet bend, quick hitch)			1	
Midline knot (i.e., clove hitch, alpine butterfly knot)			1	
Tree climbing friction hitch (i.e., tautline hitch, Blake's hitch, Distel, Schwabisch, Valdotain Tresse [VT])			1	

Explanation of point deduction: _____

Total points deducted on this page: _____

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A. PRE-CLIMB (STAGING AREA)

Task	Performance Criteria	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Notes
		Please Check	Please Circle	
PROPER TIE-IN Climber secures rope at a pre-determined tie-in/anchor point and assembles rope system using an MRS open or closed system with a friction hitch or mechanical rope work-positioning device. Evaluator's comment: "Please install rope at identified tie-in/anchor point and assemble your rope system."	When using a carabiner without a captive eye, the knot or eye splice must cinch or be retained in place to prevent side loading or accidental opening of the gate.		FAIL	
	Correctly attach and configure an industry-accepted mechanical rope work-positioning device or friction hitch to a climbing line. If unsatisfactory, climber must not continue.		FAIL	
ON ROPE TEST Climber demonstrates on rope test for ascent and descent to the height of 6.5 feet (2 meters). Evaluator's comment: "Please demonstrate an on-rope test for ascent."	Climber must be tied in, feet off the ground, and hands off the rope. If unsatisfactory, climber must not continue.		FAIL	
EVALUATOR NOTE TO CLIMBERS: rope must be retrievable from the ground after final descent.				
Points Deducted Section A:				
Evaluator notates here the selected mechanical work positioning device/friction hitch:				

Explanation of point deduction: _____

Total points deducted on this page: _____

Evaluator's name: _____

Candidate's name: _____

B. ROPE INSTALLATION

Task	Performance Criteria	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Notes
		Please Check	Please Circle	
PRE-CLIMB TREE & SITE INSPECTION Climber inspects tree and site. Evaluator's comment: "Please demonstrate inspection of the tree and site."	Climber must perform a basic visual inspection looking at the site and roots, trunk, branches from some distance away as well as close-up.		1	
	Climber must assess the presence of electrical systems and must confirm safe distance with tree parts, other workers, structures, and equipment.		2	
	Climber must assess the presence of pedestrian/vehicular traffic and plan to maintain safe distances away from pedestrian/vehicular traffic.		1	
	Climber should identify any structural defects and potential hazards present on the tree (e.g., shape, lean, cracks, splits, excessive weight).		2	
EVALUATOR STARTS TIMING CLIMBING LINE INSTALLATION Climber installs climbing rope at one of two predetermined tie-in points. Evaluator's setup note: first tie-in at 20-25 feet (6-8 meters), final tie-in at 30-50 feet (9-15 meters).	Time starts on first throw. Climbing rope must be installed in the predetermined position to allow the climber to safely enter the tree. Fifteen (15) attempts are permitted.	Start Time:		
	Use of a throwline is permitted. Use of a throwline-setting tool or apparatus (e.g., slingshot) is not permitted. Climber must not break large branches during the performance of this task. If unsatisfactory, climber must not continue.		FAIL	
COMMUNICATIONS Climber uses command-and-response system.	Climber must ensure that warning signals are heard, acknowledged, and acted upon when needed.		1	
Points Deducted Section B:				

Explanation of point deduction: _____

Total points deducted on this page: _____

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Candidate's name: _____

C. SECURED ENTRY

Task	Performance Criteria	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Notes
		Please Check	Please Circle	
<p>SECURED ENTRY INTO TREE Climber demonstrated secured entry into tree.</p> <p>Evaluator's comment: "Please demonstrate entry onto the tree."</p> <p>EVALUATOR NOTE TO CLIMBERS: From now on in the examination, climber MUST NEVER be in a position to fall for more than 3 feet (0.91 meters). A first warning is given, but a second offense will constitute failure at any point in the examination</p>	<p>Correctly attach and configure an industry-accepted mechanical rope work positioning device or friction hitch to a climbing line for ascent.</p> <p>When applicable or required by local occupational and safety laws and regulations, a recognized friction hitch (e.g., tautline hitch, Blake's hitch, Distel, Schwabisch, or French Prusik (VT)), must be tied for ascent. Additionally, a climber may have to be tied in securely with at least two secured system (main rope and backup system).</p> <p>If unsatisfactory, climber must not continue.</p>		FAIL	
<p>COMMUNICATIONS Climber uses command-and-response system.</p>	<p>Climber must ensure that warning signals are heard, acknowledged, and acted upon when needed.</p>		1	
Points Deducted Section C:				

Explanation of point deduction: _____

Total points deducted on this page: _____

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Candidate's name: _____

D. ROPE ADVANCEMENT

Task	Performance Criteria	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Notes
		Please Check	Please Circle	
AERIAL TREE INSPECTION Climber demonstrates inspection of tree when they reach the first, OR final (in case of SRS) tie-in/anchor point. Evaluator's comment: "Please demonstrate inspection of tree."	Climber should identify any structural defects and potential hazards present on the tree (e.g., dead branches, lean, cracks, splits, excessive weight, wildlife).		1	
	Climber must assess visual indicators of reduced structural integrity in relation to tie-in/anchor point and anticipated forces in use.		2	
ASCENT TO FINAL, PRE-DETERMINED TIE-IN/ANCHOR POINT Climber demonstrates ascent to final, predetermined tie-in/anchor point. EVALUATOR NOTE: If the climber is at the first tie-in point. The climber may throw rope as many times as necessary to reach the second tie-in point.	Climber must be secured at all times and use industry-accepted climbing techniques. If unsatisfactory, climber must not continue.		FAIL	
COMMUNICATIONS Climber uses command-and-response system.	Climber must ensure that warning signals are heard, acknowledged, and acted upon when needed.		1	
Points Deducted Section D:				

Explanation of point deduction: _____

Total points deducted on this page: _____

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Candidate's name: _____

E. TIE-IN

Task	Performance Criteria	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Notes
		Please Check	Please Circle	
<p>FINAL TIE-IN Climber demonstrates final tie-in: - If SRS: touch the flag/bell - If MRS: tie-in to preset anchor point.</p>	<p>Climber chooses technique.</p> <p>Tie-in must be established using an industry-accepted techniques and equipment.</p>		3	
<p>Evaluator's comment: "Please advance and secure your rope system to the final tie-in/ anchor point."</p> <p>EVALUATOR NOTE TO CLIMBERS: rope and all hardware must be retrievable from the ground after final descent.</p>	<p>Climber must be secured at all times.</p> <p>If unsatisfactory, climber must not continue.</p>		FAIL	
<p>ON-ROPE TEST Climber demonstrates on-rope test at final point of tie-in.</p>	<p>Climber must demonstrate an on-rope test while maintaining two points of attachment.</p> <p>If unsatisfactory, climber must not continue.</p>		FAIL	
<p>COMMUNICATIONS Climber uses command-and-response system.</p>	<p>Climber must ensure that warning signals are heard, acknowledged, and acted upon when needed.</p>		1	
Points Deducted Section E:				

Explanation of point deduction: _____

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F. HANDSAW CONTACT STATION

Task	Performance Criteria	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Notes
		Please Check	Please Circle	
<p>FIRST DESIGNATED WORKSTATION Climber demonstrates controlled use of climbing rope and friction hitch while performing vertical and horizontal movements in the tree canopy.</p> <p>EVALUATOR NOTE TO CLIMBERS: The tie-in/anchor point should be positioned so that the climber will use appropriate angles for the tree climbing rope system used and not be subjected to an uncontrolled pendulum swing. A first warning is given, but a second offense will constitute failure at any point in the examination.</p>	<p>During completion of this task, climber must be secured by at least two points of attachments (e.g., primary climbing rope and work positioning lanyard). Climber must exhibit techniques to prevent uncontrolled swings at the handsaw station.</p> <p>When applicable or required by local occupational and safety laws and regulations, a third point of attachment or contact with the tree may be required.</p> <p>If unsatisfactory, climber must not continue.</p>		FAIL	
<p>CONTACT OF BELL OR FLAG Climber makes contact with the bell or flag using a handsaw.</p>	<p>Climber must contact the bell or flag with the handsaw.</p>		2	
<p>COMMUNICATIONS Climber uses command-and-response system.</p>	<p>Climber must ensure that warning signals are heard, acknowledged, and acted upon when needed.</p>		1	
Points Deducted Section F:				

Explanation of point deduction: _____

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G. POLE SAW/PRUNER WORKSTATION

Task	Performance Criteria	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Notes
		Please Check	Please Circle	
SECOND DESIGNATED WORKSTATION Climber demonstrates controlled use of climbing rope, friction hitch or mechanical rope work positioning device while performing vertical and horizontal movements in the tree canopy and using a pole saw/pruner.	Climber chooses technique. Tie-in must be established using an industry-accepted techniques and equipment. Climber must be secured at all times. If unsatisfactory, climber must not continue.		FAIL	
USE OF POLE SAW/ PRUNER Climber demonstrates the use of a pole saw or pruner to touch flag or bell.	Climber must request pole be set up from ground.		1	
	Climber must untie pole saw/pruner and use both hands on the pole saw/pruner while contacting the flag or bell.		1	
	Climber must safely secure and lower the saw/pruner to the ground. Pole saw/pruner must not be dropped.		1	
COMMUNICATIONS Climber uses command-and-response system.	Climber must ensure that warning signals are heard, acknowledged, and acted upon when needed.		1	
Points Deducted Section G:				

Explanation of point deduction: _____

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H. DESCENT

Task	Performance Criteria	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Notes
		Please Check	Please Circle	
DESCENT TO GROUND Climber demonstrates descent to ground in a consistent and controlled manner. EVALUATOR NOTE TO CLIMBERS: rope and all hardware must be retrievable from the ground after final descent.	Climber must tie an industry-approved stopper (e.g., figure-8 knot) knot at the end of the rope.		3	
	Climber demonstrates sufficient length of rope to reach the ground. Climber must safely descend without damaging the friction hitch and climbing rope will be maintained with minimal disruptions (e.g., removal of rope bunching, redirecting rope around branches for an uninterrupted path to ground).		2	
	Climber must descend and land in a controlled manner at a safe speed without damaging rope.		FAIL	
EFFICIENT CLIMB Climber demonstrates proficiency completing the tasks required within 30 minutes.	Descent and overall climb after "Start Time" must be completed in 30 minutes total time to receive all the points for this task. 3 points should be deducted if not completed within 30 minutes. If the climb is not completed within 45 minutes, climber must descend and land in a controlled manner at a safe speed without damaging rope.	End Time:		
			3	FAIL
COMMUNICATIONS Climber uses command-and-response system.	Climber must ensure that warning signals are heard, acknowledged, and acted upon when needed.		1	
Points Deducted Section H:				

Explanation of point deduction: _____

 TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE = 38

LESS FINAL POINTS DEDUCTED = _____

FINAL SCORE = _____

Total points deducted on this page: _____