

## Carry out emergency treework operations

### Overview

This standard is about carrying out emergency treework operations. The standard includes the undertaking of emergency treework typically as a result of tree failure, vehicular accident or a weather-related emergency.

The use of equipment and all operations must meet the guidance issued by the responsible officer, e.g. a fire brigade representative or client officer, as well as the requirements of the law, current codes of practice and industry guidelines.

It is important to be aware of how the treework operations will be affected by the complexity of the emergency situation.

It is a minimum requirement that an emergency treework operations team must all be well equipped and have the appropriate qualifications and experience.

When working with machinery you need to be appropriately trained, and hold current certification where required, in line with relevant legislation.

Your work must conform to all relevant legislation and codes of practice when carrying out this work.

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### Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. assess the risks associated with the site and the proposed work
2. select and implement appropriate working methods in accordance with the assessed risks
3. select and use the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for the work
4. locate the emergency response coordinator
5. deploy the emergency response kit for treework operations
6. maintain communications and effective teamwork throughout the emergency treework operations
7. work effectively with the response coordinator, emergency services and utility representatives, as appropriate
8. determine which activities are safe and appropriate to be carried out at the time of the emergency and which can be carried out at a later time
9. work within the crowns of damaged standing trees to remove limbs that present a hazard
10. break down the crowns of fallen trees safely
11. sever the stem of damaged trees at the root plate where necessary
12. carry out the agreed emergency treework operations efficiently and effectively
13. make the area safe, with suitable access routes, as required
14. agree plans for any subsequent work and clear up to take place
15. dispose of waste in line with the emergency plan, safety and environmental requirements
16. restore and secure the site prior to departure
17. maintain the health and safety of yourself and others at all times, in accordance with relevant legislation

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### Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. how to identify hazards and work within the control measures of risk assessments and emergency plans
2. the selection, use and care of personal protective equipment (PPE)
3. how to secure the tree root-plate or other unstable structures with the appropriate equipment
4. how to sever the stem from the root plate
5. the reasons and circumstances where it is necessary to move trees on the ground to a safer working area
6. the principles of tree crown breakdown, with particular emphasis on supporting limbs and tension and compression
7. how to work safely within the crowns of damaged trees
8. how and why to initiate and maintain communications and teamwork when carrying out emergency treework operations
9. the procedures for dealing with emergencies and emergency services
10. how to determine activities that are required to make the emergency safe and those that can be left until a later time
11. how to dispose of waste
12. how to work in different types of sites and situations
13. your responsibilities under relevant environmental, health and safety legislation and codes of practice

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**Scope/range for  
knowledge**

**How to work in the following types of sites and situations:**

- in close proximity to buildings or overhead utilities
- in close proximity to the highway
- in close proximity to water
- with fallen trees
- with damaged buildings
- in poor weather
- with damaged overhead power lines that may be live
- with damaged overhead cables
- with damaged underground utilities
- with burst drains
- with environmental disasters: raw sewage, etc.
- under artificial lights

## Glossary

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<b>Date Approved</b>	February 2017
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<b>Validity</b>	Current
<b>Status</b>	Original
<b>Originating Organisation</b>	Lantra
<b>Original URN</b>	LANTw18
<b>Relevant Occupations</b>	Arboriculture and forestry; Chainsaw and forest machine operators; Gardener; Park Ranger; Greenkeeper; Groundsman; Landscaper; Horticulture and forestry
<b>Suite</b>	Horticulture; Treework
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