

Take-down hung-up trees

Overview

This standard is about the take-down of trees that have become hung-up on or in other trees. Winches, hand tools or appropriate machinery may be used. Winches may be hand- or mechanically powered.

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. select, prepare and use the appropriate tools and equipment, safely and effectively
5. prepare the site to facilitate the take-down of hung-up trees and ensure the immediate work area at the base of the tree is clear
6. carry out routine operator maintenance, pre-start checks and the setting of the chainsaw for use
7. select the take-down method, which is relevant to the tree size, form and condition
8. prepare trees by removing a portion or all of the hinge, as appropriate to the tree size, condition and method of take-down
9. configure restraining equipment safely and effectively, if required
10. take-down hung-up trees using tools or equipment appropriate to the tree size, condition and take-down methods
11. ensure trees are in a safe and appropriate position and condition to enable subsequent operations
12. 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 assess risks
2. how to interpret risk assessments
3. the selection, use and care of personal protective equipment (PPE)
4. the emergency planning and procedures for the site
5. the importance of observing the hung-up tree and the work area throughout the treework operations
6. the take-down methods for a range of tree weights and diameters, using appropriate hand tools
7. the take-down methods for hung-up trees using winches or other manual or mechanical means
8. the various types of winches and compatible equipment used in take-down and the mode of operation, including hand and powered winches
9. the danger areas in relation to the hung-up trees being taken down
10. the use of hand tools, pull ropes and winches, to assist with the snedding/de-limbing of trees
11. the appropriate actions to take if a hung-up tree cannot be taken down
12. the potential impact of your work on the environment and how this can be minimised
13. your responsibilities under relevant environmental and health and safety legislation

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**Scope/range related
to knowledge and
understanding**

Ancillary equipment compatible with winches:

- cables
- strops
- chokers
- shackles
- pulley snatch blocks
- other devices such as cable extension clamps

Hand tools include:

- lifting tongs
- cant hooks
- turning hooks
- turning straps
- take-down poles
- small hand winches



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