

## Sever uprooted or windblown trees using a chainsaw

---

### Overview

This standard is about severing uprooted or windblown trees using a chainsaw. This includes trees that have been windblown or uprooted by storm damage, earth movement or another physical agent. The trees will not be in a position that requires assistance from emergency services or utility companies.

Multiple windblow sites will require a planned approach to complete the work. The order of work will often involve the severing and extraction of part-blown and wind-snapped trees prior to severing root-plates from fully blown stems.

The trees will be both over and under guidebar length in diameter and will be both fully and partially uprooted. This also includes the severing of root-plates that overhang the chainsaw operator's cutting position using mechanical or other appropriate machinery for restraint.

This also describes the severing of partly blown (leaning) trees and the felling of wind-snapped (broken) trees with and without the tops attached.

Winches or other appropriate machinery may be used for the restraint of trees with side tension or where the stem is likely to roll.

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.

## Sever uprooted or windblown trees using a chainsaw

---

### 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. evaluate your own competence to proceed with the operations and seek advice where necessary
5. plan a systematic approach to the work of severing uprooted or windblown trees to ensure that no unstable trees or root-plates are overhanging the cutting positions and provide a thorough briefing to all operators on site
6. prepare the site by removing obstacles in the way of the work position and establish an escape route, as appropriate
7. prepare the stems by removing branches, climbing vegetation, scrub and other obstructions, as appropriate
8. identify tension and compression in stems and select a recognised severing method appropriate to the size and condition of trees that are under and over guidebar length in diameter
9. sever the root-plates from under and over guidebar diameter stems using the appropriate compression and tension cuts, using restraint equipment as appropriate
10. prepare and fell windblown trees using the appropriate methods and aid tools
11. ensure that the trees and root-plates are in a safe and appropriate position and condition to enable the subsequent operations
12. select and use equipment for the restraint of the tree that is appropriate to the size and condition of the tree and root-plate
13. follow environmental good practice as set by your organisation and the industry, and minimise environmental damage
14. maintain the health and safety of yourself and others at all times, in accordance with relevant legislation

## Sever uprooted or windblown trees using a chainsaw

---

### 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. how to identify top, bottom and side tension and compression in timber
5. the risks involved and precautions to be taken by the chainsaw operator when cutting timber under high tension
6. how to recognise when winch restraint of a root-plate or stem is necessary
7. how to use a winch or other mechanical means for the restraint of side tension or to prevent timber rolling/moving on a slope
8. the methods and risks of cutting a “long log” when severing buried stems or unstable root-plates
9. the alternative methods that can be used to sever timber under very heavy tension, such as “V” cuts, and the additional risks and precautions to be taken
10. how to make root-plates safe after severing
11. the restrictions to consider and additional safety precautions to take when using winches to restrain overhanging root-plates
12. the types of winch suitable for restraining root-plates and how they operate
13. how to select anchor points adequate for the load applied and the operator safeguards in case of anchor point failure, including the consideration of the multiplication of forces on anchor points, such as double rigging or offset (diverted) pulling
14. how to select, set up and use winch and compatible ancillary equipment for double-rigging and offset (diverted) pulling
15. the danger areas in relation to the winching system, the tree stem and the root-plate
16. the situations where a banksman (lookout person) would be employed and the means of communication with the operator
17. the reasons and methods for the restraint of side tension in uprooted stems
18. how to recognise situations where chainsaw severing is not appropriate
19. the methods of severing uprooted trees, under and over guidebar length in diameter
20. how to sever partly uprooted or windblown trees
21. how to fell broken trees with tops attached or snapped trees with no tops
22. the advantages and methods of removing a broken top prior to felling
23. the problems and work methods associated with felling broken trees

Sever uprooted or windblown trees using a chainsaw

---

- 24. the additional safeguards when felling broken standing stems with unstable

Sever uprooted or windblown trees using a chainsaw

---

root-plates

25. the potential hazards and the safeguards required when cutting tops without severing the root-plate
26. the potential impact of your work on the environment and how this can be minimised
27. your responsibilities under relevant environmental and health and safety legislation



Sever uprooted or windblown trees using a chainsaw

---

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

Ancillary equipment compatible with the winch, etc., will include cables, strops, chokers, shackles, pulley snatch blocks and other devices, such as cable extension clamps

Sever uprooted or windblown trees using a chainsaw

---

**Glossary**

**Banksman** – a lookout person

## Sever uprooted or windblown trees using a chainsaw

<b>Developed by</b>	Lantra
<b>Version Number</b>	2
<b>Date Approved</b>	February 2017
<b>Indicative Review Date</b>	February 2021
<b>Validity</b>	Current
<b>Status</b>	Original
<b>Originating Organisation</b>	Lantra
<b>Original URN</b>	LANTw24
<b>Relevant Occupations</b>	Arboriculture and forestry; Chainsaw and forest machine operators
<b>Suite</b>	Treework
<b>Keywords</b>	chainsaw; uprooted; windblown; trees