

Carry out the aerial cutting of trees using a crane

Overview

This standard is about carrying out the aerial cutting of trees using a crane for the removal of tree sections. The work will be carried out by operators with extensive experience of climbing and accessing trees.

You will need to carry out a tree hazard evaluation and perform a “working at height” assessment before starting this work. You will carry out cutting operations using recognised arboriculture access techniques. You will gain access using a rope and harness.

This standard covers the removal of single limb or parts of the tree canopy up to the complete removal of trees using a crane.

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. inspect access equipment to ensure it is safe and fit for use according to the manufacturer's instructions and relevant legislation
6. select and use access and positioning methods appropriate to the assessed risks and the method statement
7. select an appropriate anchor point to position the access equipment so that the anchor point will not be compromised by the tree or any part of the work being carried out
8. calculate the expected loads the rigging needs to take, within its design/safety factors, and select compatible components to make up the rigging system
9. assess the position of the crane to facilitate the removal of the tree sections
10. agree with the crane operator the position of the crane for work to be carried out
11. assess the likely directions of the pivot and attach slings accordingly
12. assess the weight of the pieces to be removed and identify the desired drop zone
13. select an appropriate work position and carry out aerial tree cutting by executing the appropriate cut
14. communicate with the crane operator and ground staff regarding the progress of operations
15. use a pull/tag line to aid the removal of sections in order to protect yourself, the infrastructure and other targets
16. deal appropriately with the arisings
17. ensure the site is left in a condition which meets environmental requirements, in accordance with the specification
18. 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. emergency planning and procedures relevant to the site
5. how to identify tree species and how the species and condition of trees will affect your work
6. how to evaluate the tree for hazards and the implications of the hazards identified
7. how to select appropriate anchor points and the position of access equipment so that the anchor point will not be compromised by the aerial tree-cutting work being carried out
8. the importance of accurate and appropriate cuts when removing tree sections and the effect of the cuts on the section being removed
9. the advantages and disadvantages of the available tools and equipment to perform the aerial tree-cutting operations
10. how to communicate with the crane operator and ground staff
11. how to install and use pull/tag line to aid the removal of sections.
12. the advantages and disadvantages of removing the tree sections using a crane
13. how to calculate the expected loads when removing tree sections using a crane
14. how to assess the likely direction of the pivot
15. the potential impact of your work on the environment and how this can be minimised
16. your responsibilities under relevant environmental and health and safety legislation

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Developed by	Lantra
Version Number	2
Date Approved	February 2017
Indicative Review Date	February 2021
Validity	Current
Status	Original
Originating Organisation	Lantra
Original URN	LANTw32
Relevant Occupations	Arboriculture and forestry; Chainsaw and forest machine operators
Suite	Treework
Keywords	crane; trees; remove; branch; aerial
