
Overview

This standard is about carrying out tree and vegetation management in proximity to above-ground utilities i.e. work associated with, or in close proximity to, services and utilities including overhead utilities.

The standard includes the planned management of trees and vegetation around the utility so it can continue to function safely and effectively. This will include the safe preparation and implementation of the required work with due consideration of the associated hazards. Those involved in this activity must be aware of the hazards associated with utility work, particularly electrical hazards.

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.

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 specialist equipment suitable for carrying out tree and vegetation management operations in proximity to above-ground utilities and any other utility structures
5. ensure that required signage and guarding controls are in place
6. re-validate any pre-prepared risk assessments and work instructions
7. maintain and operate specialist equipment in accordance with the manufacturer's and the utility's specified parameters
8. carry out tree and vegetation management to the specification in order to ensure a reduction of its impact on above-ground utilities
9. ensure the site is left in a condition which meets environmental requirements, in accordance with the specification
10. maintain records to meet utility and legislative requirements
11. maintain the health and safety of yourself and others at all times, in accordance with relevant legislation

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. how to identify hazards and assess risks
2. how to interpret risk assessments
3. emergency planning and procedures relevant to the site
4. the selection, use and care of personal protective equipment (PPE)
5. the level of risks posed by trees and vegetation from either its bio-mechanical condition and/or proximity to the above-ground utility/utility structure
6. how to evaluate the tree for hazards and the implications of the hazards identified
7. the likely impact of proposed above-ground utility work on trees and vegetation
8. the use of the appropriate safety equipment specific to the utility in question and the tools for operation
9. the potential hazards and risks associated with working in close proximity to the utility/utility structure, including safety distances and use of equipment
10. the optimum aesthetic tree or vegetation appearance when undertaking works in proximity to above ground utility/utility structures
11. the purpose of utility-specific safety documents
12. the implications on different tree species, their condition and the time of year when pruning operations are planned and how these will affect the work
13. the basic principles of tree biology and the implications of crown reduction and thinning intensity on different tree species
14. how to balance retaining aesthetics with the requirements of the utility owner or licence holder
15. the importance of identifying, demarcating and maintaining safe work zones and the appropriate routing of plant, tools and equipment
16. the potential impact of your work on the environment and how this can be minimised
17. your responsibilities under relevant environmental, health and safety legislation and codes of practice

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Scope/range

Working in the following situations:

- sites with trees adjacent to utilities
- trees adjacent to utility structures



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