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| Revision #:Written by: | Date: Month DD, YYYYApproved by: |
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| Related Documents:  | * Baler Owner’s Manuals
* Part 8 Machine Safety Occupational Health and Safety General Regulations
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| When to use this SWP: | A Christmas Tree baler is a manual or powered machine that wraps or ties Christmas trees to make it easier to ship or store them by preventing breaking of branches and getting tangled in other trees. |
| Hazards & Risks: | * Entanglement
* Cut/Amputation
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| Personal Protective Equipment: | CSA Approved* Steel toes
* Gloves
* Safety Glasses
* Hearing Protection
* Hard hat
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| Training Requirements: | * Competent to operate mobile platform as assessed by the farm owner.
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| Communication Process: | When working out in the field alone, be sure to consult the “Working Alone Procedure”. For any communication regarding break-downs, further instructions, etc. contact the farm owner. |
| Equipment & Supplies: | * First Aid Kit
* Fire Extinguisher
* Cell Phone or Two-way radio
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| Best Practice:1. Read or review the operator’s manual before the first use, at the beginning of the season and when training workers.
2. Follow the manufacturer’s guidelines for baler maintenance.
3. Read and follow the installation and use instructions for the approved netting, twine, or ties for the baler to ensure t is installed correctly.
4. Ensure you use the correct size of netting for the baler.
5. Cut away from body parts when cutting the net, twine or ties by hand.
6. Keep baler mounted cutters sharp.
7. Ensure to use approved netting or ties as required by the manufacturer’s specification for the particular baler used.
8. Visually inspect the baler before and after use.
9. If there are deficiencies found on inspection, tag out the baler and notify a supervisor for the need of repair or replacement.
10. Ensure there is clearance on either end of the baler for the length of the tree to be wrapped or tied to prevent getting caught or entangled with objects.
11. Always load the cut end of the tree into the baler.
12. Ensure equipment is operated by a competent person.
13. Gears and/or any moving parts are properly guarded.
14. Only one person to operate baler controls.
15. Do not climb on the guards or platform while the baler is operating.
16. Ensure the safety decals are visible and legible.
17. Be fit for duty when operating; not under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
18. Keep hands and body parts from the inside of the baler during operation or in the path of ties, twine, or wrapping of the tree.
19. Ensure the tagline or arm are attached to the cut end of the tree is secure and will not release as the tree goes through the baler.
20. Ensure manual balers are securely fasted to a surface.
21. Look for overhead powerlines before setting up the baling area.
22. Use good lifting technique when handling the trees to prevent back strain and sprain.
23. Get help lifting heavier and more awkward trees. Use at least two workers.
24. Use a mechanical lifting device to move wrapped trees to the storage area or trailers if too heavy to handle.
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| EMERGENCY PROCEDURES: | In case of emergency, contact 911 and the farm owner immediately. Remove yourself from harm’s way and ensure no one else is at risk.  |