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| Revision #:  Written by: | Date: Month DD, YYYY  Approved by: |

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| Related Documents: | * NS Tree Care Guidelines * The Forest Professional: Guidelines for the Stewards of tomorrows forests. * Manufacturer’s specifications for Work Positioning Equipment * International Society of Arboriculture   + Arborists certification Study Guide   + Tree Climbers Guide |
| When to use this SWP: | A work positioning system shall be utilized to perform work where only rope access can be used. No person shall use a work position system until they have received adequate rope access training. |
| Hazards & Risks: | * Falls from working at heights * Electricity * Tree Failure * Cuts/Amputation |
| Personal Protective Equipment: | CSA/ANSI approved work positioning system (climbing rope, lanyard, carabineers, saddle) protective foot wear, chainsaw cut resistant leg protection, safety glasses, hardhat with face shield and hearing protection and gloves. |
| Training Requirements: | * Electrical Awareness * Aerial Rescue * Proper Roping & Rigging * Safe Climbing technique * Proper use and care of tools * Proper pruning techniques * Climbing knots * Use of basic PPE * Basic Tree Biology & Physiology |
| Communication Process: | Communicate the rescue plan and have the resources available for rescue while work positioning system is worn and work is being performed at heights. Conduct one documented practice rescue annually. Hold a Tree worker Climber certification card in collaboration with the farm as per the Tree Care Guidelines. |
| Equipment & Supplies: | * First Aid Kit including pressure dressing * Fire Extinguisher * Cell Phone or Two-way radio * Rescue System |
| * Visually access the structural stability of the tree. * Follow **HOPE:** Hazards-Obstacles-Plan-Execution * Select and inspect the safest path of ascent. * If weather conditions are hazardous or could become hazardous stop work. * Select appropriate tree crotch to tie into and to work from. * Check electrical clearances. Follow limits of approach. * Check for hazards in the tree that may become dislodged and a danger to the worker such as broken hanging tree limbs and insect/pest nests. * Obtain formal training for work positioning system or rope access. * Ensure you understand the procedures for rescue of workers who may be unable to rescue themselves from an elevated work area. * Do not allow workers or the public below the work-positioning zone. * Be fully conversant with work positioning system. * Ensure you know capabilities of work positioning system. * Ensure the lanyards and/or ropes are not in danger of being damaged while performing work using the work positioning system. * Visually inspect ropes, saddles, lanyards, carabineers, ascenders, climbing hitches and related hardware. * Maintain all equipment and devices as per manufacturer’s specification and applicable standards in a safe and functional condition. * Employers must instruct workers and ensue worker in the proper use and care of all equipment and follow established safe work practices. * At minimum, work in pairs, never alone. * One worker always to remain on the ground to assist a climber. * Tree work to be performed off the ground must be performed by an Arborist trainee or an ISA certified arborist. * Fill out log book according to NS Tree Care Guidelines * Worker must remain tied into the tree at all times while working and until the worker has returned to the ground. * Remove slack from work positioning system to ensure minimum falling distances. * Use dielectrically tested and rated of nonconductive material for tools such as pruners, pole pruners, and saws. * Use CSA approved hand tools and chainsaws (see Chainsaw Best Practice) * Do not hang tools on electrical wires or cables. * Do not touch electrical wires or cables with hands or tools while working. * Workers to check area below and give a shout out when branches or limbs are dropped or lowered to the ground. * Do not leave any broken or cut branches in the tree. Remove them before exiting the tree. | |
| 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.  Have a aerial rescue plan. |