



Lone Working Policy

For an arboricultural business as **Deadwood Arborists**, having a lone working policy ensures the safety and well-being of arborists who may be required to work alone in potentially hazardous environments. This policy should align with health and safety regulations, risk assessments, and best practices in the industry.

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all arborists who work alone are safeguarded, and that procedures are in place to mitigate risks. It outlines responsibilities, risk assessments, and the necessary safety measures for those engaged in tree surgery work alone.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all employees and subcontractors of Deadwood Arborists who may work alone in tree surgery, including pruning, deadwood removal, tree felling, and stump grinding.

3. Definition

Lone Worker: An individual who works without direct supervision or without close or immediate support from colleagues.

4. Responsibilities

Management:

- Conduct risk assessments for lone working tasks.
- Ensure lone workers have the necessary training, experience, and equipment.
- Maintain communication systems for monitoring lone workers.
- Ensure that lone working is avoided for high-risk tasks (e.g., tree felling or use of heavy machinery).

Employees (Lone Workers):

- Follow safety procedures and communicate effectively.
- Report any hazards, incidents, or near-misses immediately.
- Ensure they have the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Maintain communication with management or a designated contact person during lone working.

5. Risk Assessments

A detailed risk assessment must be conducted prior to any tree surgery where lone working is expected. This should include:

Nature of the work: Identifying tasks that are unsuitable for lone working (e.g. working at height, complex tree procedures).

Location: Remote areas, adverse weather conditions, and accessibility for emergency services.

Equipment: Ensuring arborists have access to the right tools and PPE, and that equipment is in good working order.

Health & Fitness: Ensuring the lone worker is fit for the task at hand, both physically and mentally.

Emergency Response Plan: Developing a plan for responding to accidents or emergencies, with clear steps for contacting emergency services.

6. Training

All lone workers must receive appropriate training, which includes:

- First aid and emergency procedures.
- Use and maintenance of climbing gear and chainsaws.
- Communication protocols (e.g., regular check-ins).
- Identifying and mitigating tree surgery risks such as deadwood, falling branches, or unstable trees.

7. Communication Systems

Check-In Protocol: Lone workers must check in at set intervals with a designated contact. Frequency of check-ins will be determined by the risk level of the task.

Emergency Communications: Workers must carry a fully charged mobile phone, radio, or other suitable device to summon help in an emergency.

Fail-Safe Procedures: If a lone worker fails to check in, escalation procedures must be in place to ensure that someone responds.

8. High-Risk Activities

Lone working is prohibited for high-risk tasks such as:

- Tree felling of large or dangerous trees.
- Working at height.
- Operations in remote or hazardous locations where help may not arrive quickly in case of an emergency.

For these tasks, workers must always be accompanied by a colleague to assist or seek help in case of an incident.

9. Equipment

PPE Requirements: All lone workers must wear the required PPE, which includes helmets, gloves, eye protection, chainsaw protective clothing, and climbing gear.

Emergency Equipment: Lone workers should carry a first aid kit, emergency whistle, and any other site-specific emergency equipment.

10. Health and Well-Being

Lone workers must notify management if they feel unwell or are unfit to work alone on any given day.

Workers must not engage in lone working if they are feeling fatigued, stressed, or impaired (e.g., due to medication).

11. Incident Reporting

Any accidents, near-misses, or unsafe conditions must be reported immediately following the company's incident reporting procedures.

A post-incident review will be conducted to assess how the lone working policy can be improved.

12. Review and Monitoring

The lone working policy will be reviewed annually or after any significant incident to ensure it remains fit for purpose.

Periodic audits will be conducted to ensure compliance with the policy and risk assessments.

This policy ensures the protection of arborists while recognizing the specific challenges and dangers of tree surgery work, particularly when performed alone.

In our position as management of **Deadwood Arborists Tree Care Specialists Ltd**, we **Liam Hughes** and **Thomas Hughes** swear to uphold, enforce and review this policy.

SIGNED

DATE

SIGNED

DATE