

Conducting Forestry Observations

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The purpose of this Job Aid is to assist in the conduction of Forestry Safety Observations. This Job Aid will list items to look for when performing such safety observations.

Where conditions are not covered in this Job Aid, or if the job is not completely understood, the Advisor should safely stop the work and communicate their concerns to the necessary personnel on the jobsite.

Job Briefing

1. Hazards associated with the job: Define the slip, trip, and fall hazards.
2. Work procedures: How to get the job done safely.
3. Special precautions: Is the work near a school zone, far off the road, flagger needed, etc.?
4. Electrical hazards
5. Job assignments: What task is the crew member doing (spotting, using chipper/aerial device, etc.)?
6. Personal protective equipment (PPE) required & utilized.

Traffic Control

1. Make sure crews follow MUTCD (Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices) guidelines.
 - a. Proper signage
 - b. Placement of cones
2. Work area protection around vehicles.
3. All forestry crews are required to wear reflective gear Class 2 or Class 3.
4. Flaggers may be required in areas where topography is challenging or in areas with a large work force.

Chipping

1. Traffic control measures should be established.
2. Brush and logs should be placed so as to not create hazards in the work site.
3. Wear all applicable PPE (hard hat, safety glasses, tear-away safety vest (Asplundh & Nelson), and hearing protection).
 - a. Loose fitting clothing should not be worn while operating chippers, this includes gauntlet-type gloves & chaps.
4. When hand feeding a chipper during roadside operations, the operator should work from the curb or shoulder side whenever practical to prevent themselves from stepping into traffic (J-Hook method).
 - a. Material such as stones, nails, or sweepings should not be fed into chipper.
 - b. Push stick with no metal should be used to push items into chipper. No rakes or shovels should be used to push into the infeed hopper.
 - c. No body parts, including feet, arms, or hands should go past the feed tray of the chipper.
5. All chippers should have a quick stop & reversing device on the infeed system (ANSI Z133).

Aerial Devices

1. A minimum of two (2) wheel chocks should be placed before using an aerial device.
2. Outriggers, along with pads, should be set before using aerial device.
3. Employee operating the bucket must have proper fall protection.
4. Bucket should be equipped with a chainsaw scabbard.
5. During pruning/removal operations, a handsaw shall be taken by the aerial device operator while working aloft.
6. Bucket operator should maintain minimum approach distance.
 - a. Electrically qualified crews' bucket truck should be di-electric tested.
7. Proper PPE should be worn at all times while cutting from bucket (hard hat, safety glasses, and hearing protection).
8. A boom spotter/qualified observer should be present while employee is working from aerial device and engaged in spotting bucket operator.

Climbing Procedures

1. Look for damage to climb lines, work lines, and work positioning lanyards (cuts, abrasions, or deterioration). Saddle, stitching, and bridges should all be checked.
2. Climber aloft should be tied in, and not simply "bucked" in, before starting work. (i.e., climb line and buck strap - not two (2) buck straps).
3. A second employee should be within voice or visual communication while climber is aloft.
4. Climber shall have a handsaw in an approved scabbard while working aloft.
5. Climber should be tied-in in such a manner as if they were to fall, they would fall away from any energized conductors.
6. Stopper knots at the end of ropes should be utilized when required.
7. Proper PPE should be utilized (hard hat, safety glasses, and hearing protection).

Tree Removal

1. A drop zone should be established prior to piecing-down the tree.
2. Non-involved workers (not on the rope) should be positioned at least two (2) times the height of the tree or trunk being removed. Involved workers should be positioned one and one-half (1.5) times the height of the tree or trunk being removed.
 - a. Involved workers are usually the feller and those individuals who handle ropes, taglines, come-alongs, winches, etc.
3. Saw operators should have an escape route 45 degrees on either side of a line drawn opposite of the intended direction of the fall.
 - a. Escape route should be cleared prior to back-cut.
4. A notch should be used on all trees and trunks greater than five (5) inches DBH (Diameter at Breast Height) (ANSI Z133).
 - a. A rope should be attached to trees or trunks. Crews should not push the tree over.
5. Tree limbs should be removed to a height and width sufficient to allow the tree, or tree parts, to fall clear of hazards, such as utility wires and/or other objects in the vicinity.
6. Proper PPE should be worn at all times (hard hat, safety glasses, hearing protection, safety vest, and chaps). Chaps should also be worn when cutting from the ground.