TreePro®
by NIP GROUP

Advanced Risk Mitigation Techniques: 15-Point Arborist Safety Checklist

- ☐ Conduct a full jobsite survey and risk assessment before beginning work
- ☐ Acclimate new workers gradually (consider using the Rule of 20 Percent)
- ☐ Brief workers before each shift to communicate jobsite risks and responsibilities
- ☐ Establish clear communication systems using hand signals or other visual signals
- ☐ Keep working areas clear of any branches, leaves, and debris
- ☐ Confirm the location of all utilities before beginning work
- ☐ Maintain at least 10 feet of distance (additional distance may be required for lines exceeding 50,000 volts) and assume all lines are energized
- ☐ Set up traffic and pedestrian controls where appropriate
- ☐ Use proper fall protection equipment
- ☐ When felling a tree, set up a drop zone with a radius that's at least twice the height of the tree
- ☐ Plan felling direction and establish multiple exit paths before making the first cut
- ☐ Inspect equipment before each use and keep detailed maintenance logs on all machinery
- ☐ Provide workers with, and enforce the use of, personal protective equipment (PPE)
- ☐ Create a written emergency plan and train employees on emergency protocols
- ☐ Maintain and reinforce a strong safety culture that grants every worker with stop-work authority

Summary Checklist

- ☐ Recognize common tree care claims: Build a risk management strategy around some of the most common incidents, including falling limbs, auto liability, worker injuries, equipment theft, and negligence claims.
- ☐ Focus on prevention by recognizing the root cause: Remember that many high-cost claims are the result of failing to communicate or inadequately addressing site hazards.

- [ ] Prioritize training and supervision: Leverage loss data and case studies to remind clients that newer tree care workers face the highest risks. Remember to reinforce formal safety training, PPE enforcement, clear instructions, and emergency procedures.
- [ ] Promote risk-smart protocols and culture: Encourage clients to adopt standardized safety systems, tailgate briefings, and stop-work authority to help prevent losses before they happen.
- [ ] Leverage specialized insurance providers: Partner with industry-specific programs like NIP Group's TreePro to provide clients with tailored coverages and expert risk management support.

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866.780.8076 | submissions@nipgroup.com | www.nipgroup.com | Learn more

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