

A collection of climbing and rescue gear is arranged on a wooden surface. The gear includes a yellow and black striped rope, a blue rope, a red rope, a chainsaw, a hand saw, several carabiners (purple, green, and silver), and a black handle. Evergreen branches are scattered around the gear.

LEARN HOW TO COMPLY WITH OSHA'S GEAR INSPECTION MANDATE

DECEMBER 17, 2019

TODAY'S AGENDA

Moderator



John Bertoli
SVP, Marketing

Webinar Speakers



Mike Rook
TreePro Program
Director



Tree 133, LLC
Craig Bachmann
Lead Arborist &
Manager

1. About TreePro
2. Challenges of Gear Complexity
3. Current Tree Care Regulations
4. OSHA Investigations and Violations
5. Establishing Gear Policies
6. Q&A



Tree Services & Utility Line Clearance Insurance

Why Choose TreePro?

- 30 years of industry experience
- Carrier rated A+, financial size XV by A.M. Best
- Industry experts for risk control guidance and proper valuation of operations & equipment
- Competitive rates & flexible payment plans
- Expert claims handling
- World-class risk control services

Eligibility Map

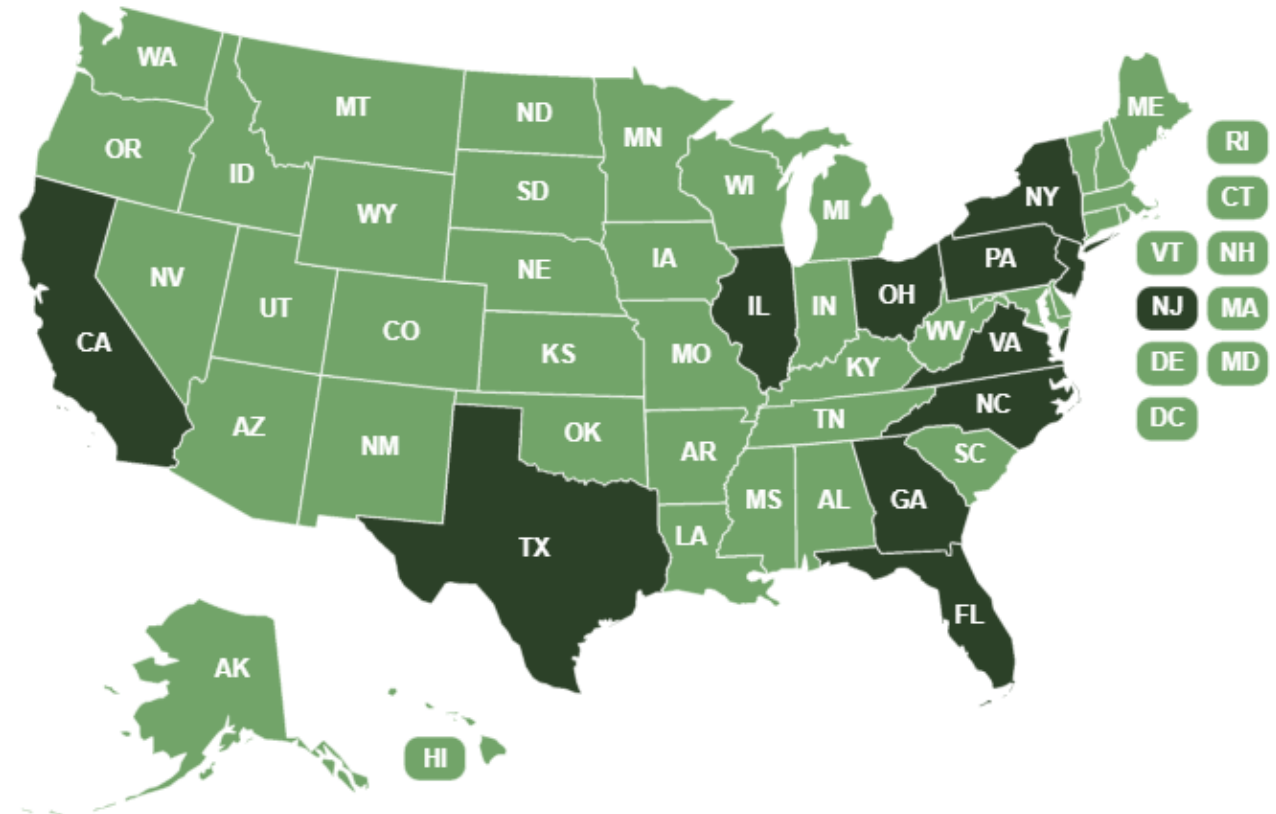
Available in ALL states

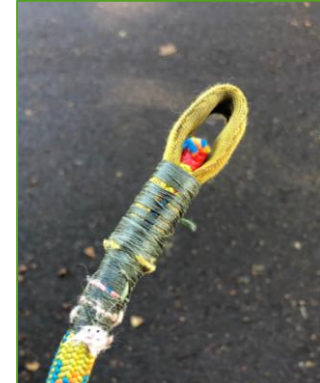
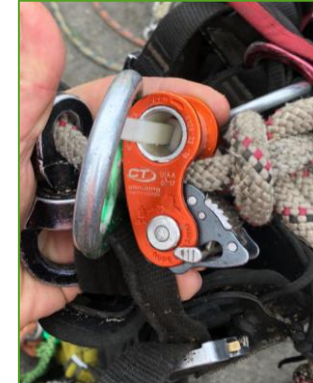
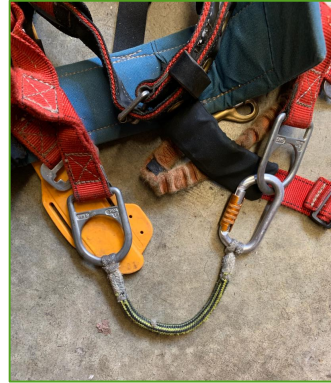


Target States



Other Eligible states



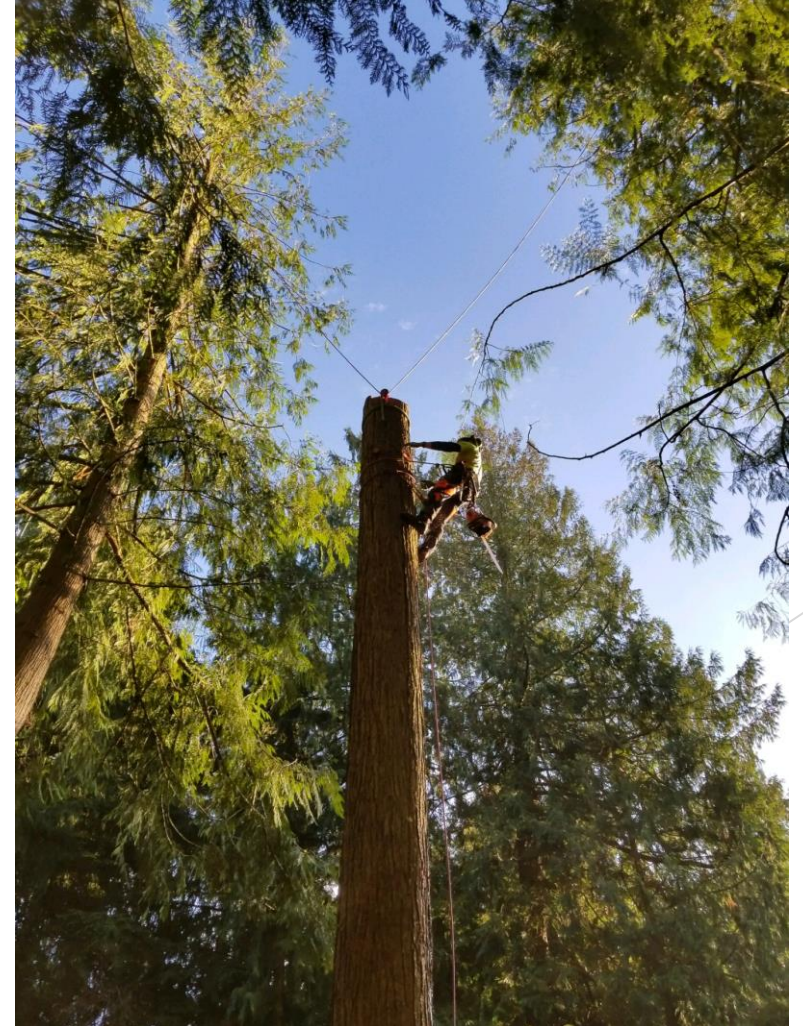


Climbing Gear: A Growing Risk for Tree Companies

Craig Bachmann
Lead Arborist & Manager
Tree133 LLC

Can We Agree...?

- ▶ Tree work has inherent risks
- ▶ An incident at your company...
...would have serious personal costs
... could risk the future of your business
- ▶ Business success = family security
- ▶ The best companies take responsibility for safety and well-being of their employees



A Brief Introduction

Craig Bachmann

Lead Arborist & Manager, Tree133 LLC
Seattle, WA

- ▶ Business owner and contract climber
- ▶ Certified Arborist, TRAQ, Certified Tree Worker
- ▶ Safety/skills trainer in English & Spanish
- ▶ Event Head Judge/Tech and gear inspector at International Tree Climbing Championship (ITCC)
- ▶ Extensive experience in life-safety situations as EMT, firefighter, ski patroller and rock climber



Climbing Gear Used to Be Simple



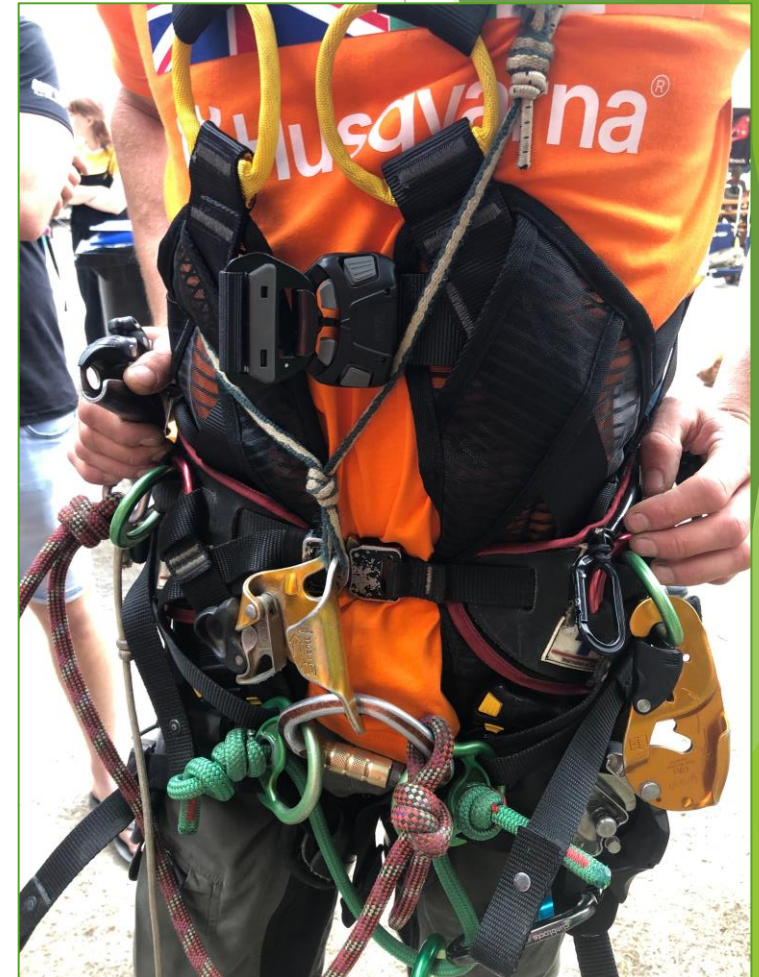
And Today... #@*%~\$#^!

- ▶ New gear every day
- ▶ Significant cost
- ▶ Specialty tools from rope access
- ▶ “Garage” innovation without testing
- ▶ Lack of clarity on who is responsible



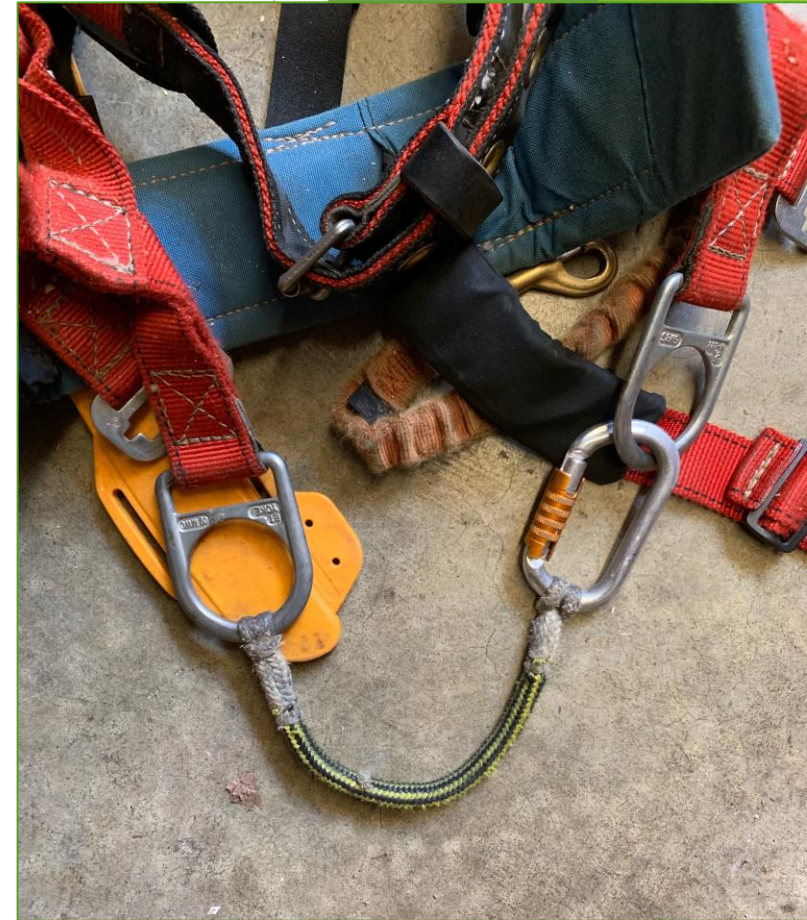
Challenges of Gear Complexity

- ▶ Owners/managers are very busy
- ▶ Hire climbers and trust their decisions
- ▶ Climbers bring personal gear
- ▶ Not trained on gear inspection

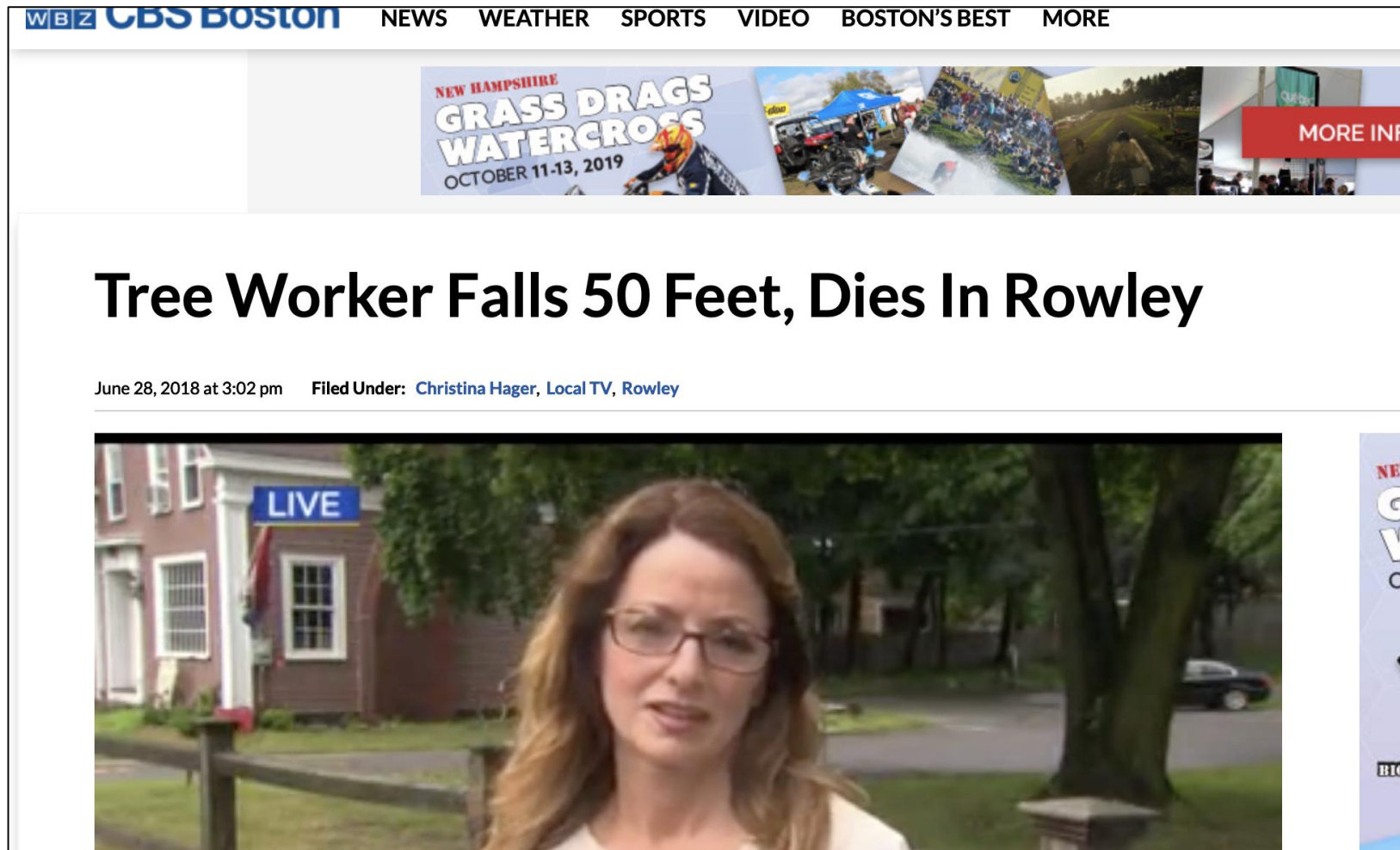


Climbers Can Make Bad Choices

- ▶ Awareness... *my rope is super strong*
- ▶ Attachment... *that's my favorite*
- ▶ Inspection... *looks fine to me*
- ▶ Cost... *a new rope is \$200*
- ▶ Social Media... *I saw it on YouTube*
- ▶ Test-pilot... *pushing limits on your jobsite*
- ▶ Cowboy... *safety is for wimps*

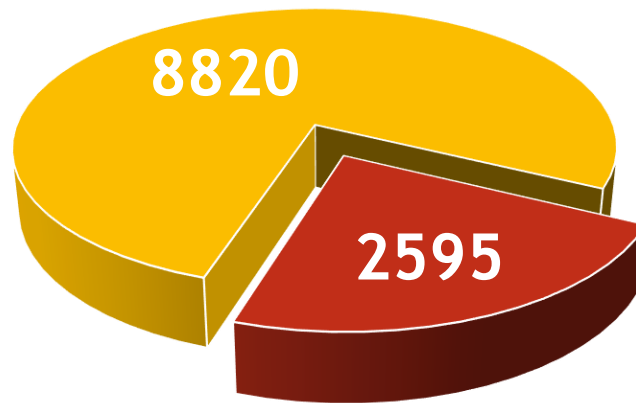


High Risk... with Deadly Results



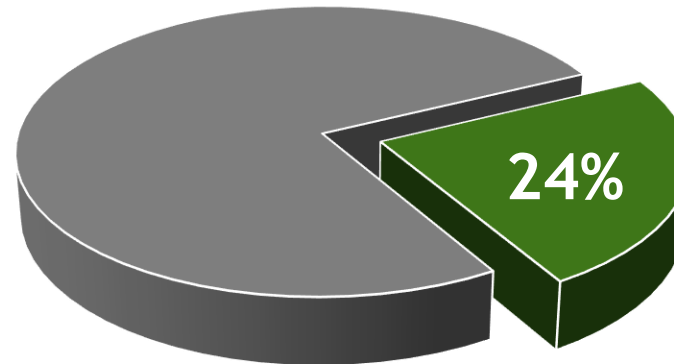
Could This Happen At Your Company?

Serious Accidents
(2001-2017)



■ Fatal ■ Non-fatal

Falls From Canopy
(2001-2017)



■ Falls from Canopy
■ All Others

Major “source”
of serious accidents

* Over 11,400 serious accidents in 17 yrs, based on study by Ball, Walsh, Vosberg (2019)

What Regulations Apply to Tree Care?

- ▶ OSH Act Section 5(a)1: General Duty Clause
- ▶ 29 CFR 1910 Subpart I: Person Protective Equipment
- ▶ 29 CFR 1910 Subpart D: Walking-Working (Fall Protection)

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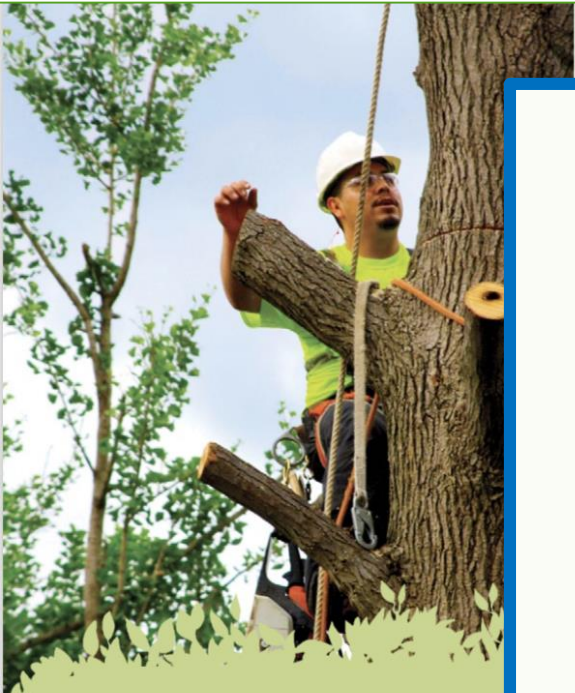
- ▶ Z133 Arboricultural Operations

- - - - -

- ▶ Manufacturer instructions



OSHA Protects Tree Workers



Tree Care Work
KNOW THE HAZARDS

Your employer is responsible for your safety!
Employers must **provide free** protective equipment (hard hat, climbing spurs, and harness) and **train you to:**

- Identify fall and electrical hazards.
- Know proper climbing techniques.
- Use protective equipment — climbing lines can save your life during a fall!
- Stand clear of the drop zone.

...d to climb or use
...that is in good
...elevated workers
...ther.
...vent injuries.

...nal check falling
...ng work.
...away from electric
...power company to
...he line.
...cones that is at
...nt of the tree.
...ecessary.

...ight to:
...place. Your
...provide a
...put you at risk

...safety concerns
...without being punished. If you see
...hazards or an injury, speak up!

- Receive information and training in a language and vocabulary you understand. This includes information on workplace hazards, how to prevent them, and the OSHA standards that apply to your workplace. By law, your employer cannot retaliate against you for exercising your rights under the law.
- Ask OSHA to inspect your workplace if you think it's dangerous. To request an inspection, call 1-800-321-OSHA (6742).

**Not sure who to talk to?
Call OSHA. We can help.
It's confidential.**

 
U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration

1-800-321-OSHA (6742)
www.osha.gov


Learn more about
tree care work hazards

OSHA 3752-12 2014

<https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3752.pdf>

OSHA: Personal Protective Equipment

29 CFR 1910 Subpart I

Employers required to...

- ▶ Prepare a written hazard assessment
- ▶ Provide appropriate PPE for hazards
- ▶ Enforce use of PPE
- ▶ Document policies and training

<https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/treecare/safetyprograms.html>

<https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1910>

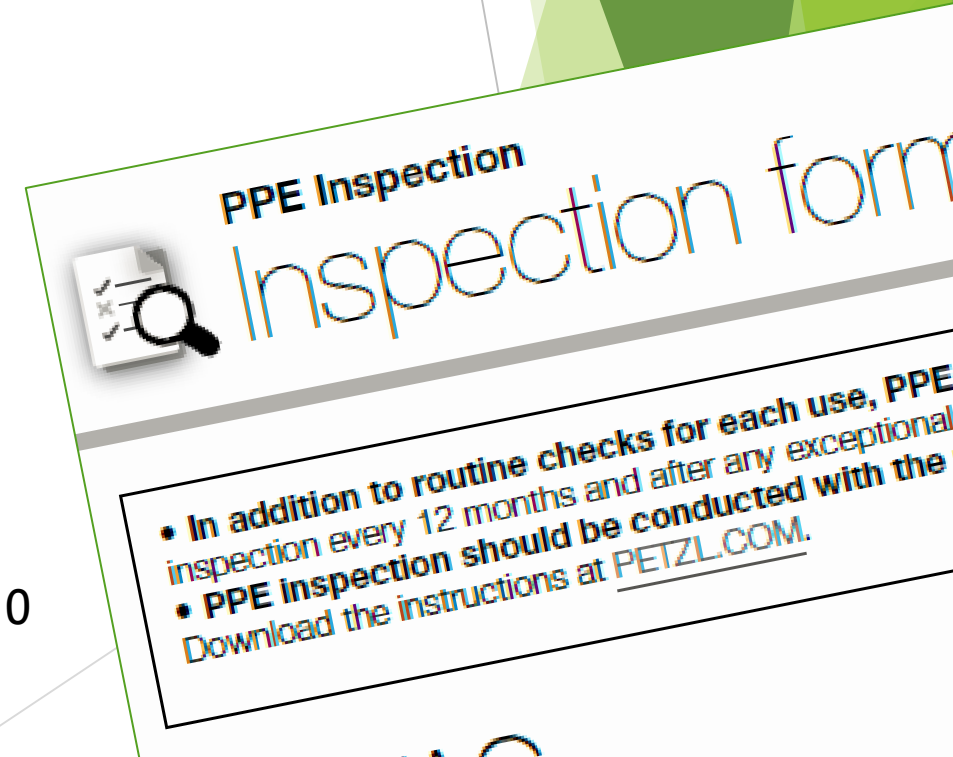


OSHA: Personal Fall Protection

29 CFR 1910 Subpart I & Subpart D

- ▶ Fall protection equipment shall be inspected on a regular basis by a competent person
- ▶ Inspections shall be documented
- ▶ Inspection records shall be kept on file for the service life of the equipment

<https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1910>



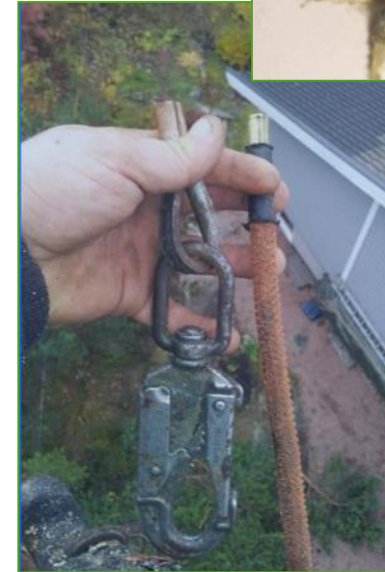
ANSI Z133-2017

Section 3: General Safety Requirements

- ▶ Tools and equipment... shall comply with applicable OSHA regulations and/or ANSI standards.
- ▶ Employers shall instruct employees in proper use, inspection, and maintenance of PPE



Who is Responsible for An Accident?



Serious Accident = OSHA Investigation

- ▶ Did the employer identify and document job hazards and define PPE required to mitigate those hazards?
- ▶ Did the employer provide appropriate PPE to employee OR have documented policies for employee-owned PPE?
- ▶ Did the employer train employees in PPE inspection?
- ▶ Did the employer document regular inspection of PPE?
- ▶ Did the employer train employees in proper PPE use?
- - - - -
- ▶ Did the employee (climber) inspect the PPE prior to use?
- ▶ Did the employee (climber) use the PPE as trained?



**Employer
=
YOU**

Penalties for OSHA Violations

SERIOUS Violation

Substantial probability of death or serious physical harm and employer knew, or should have known

Up to
\$13,260 each

FAILURE TO ABATE

Employer has not corrected a violation for which OSHA has issued a citation

Up to
\$13,260 per day

WILFULL Violation

Employer intentionally disregards OSHA's rules and regulations or has an indifference to employee health and safety

Up to
\$132,598

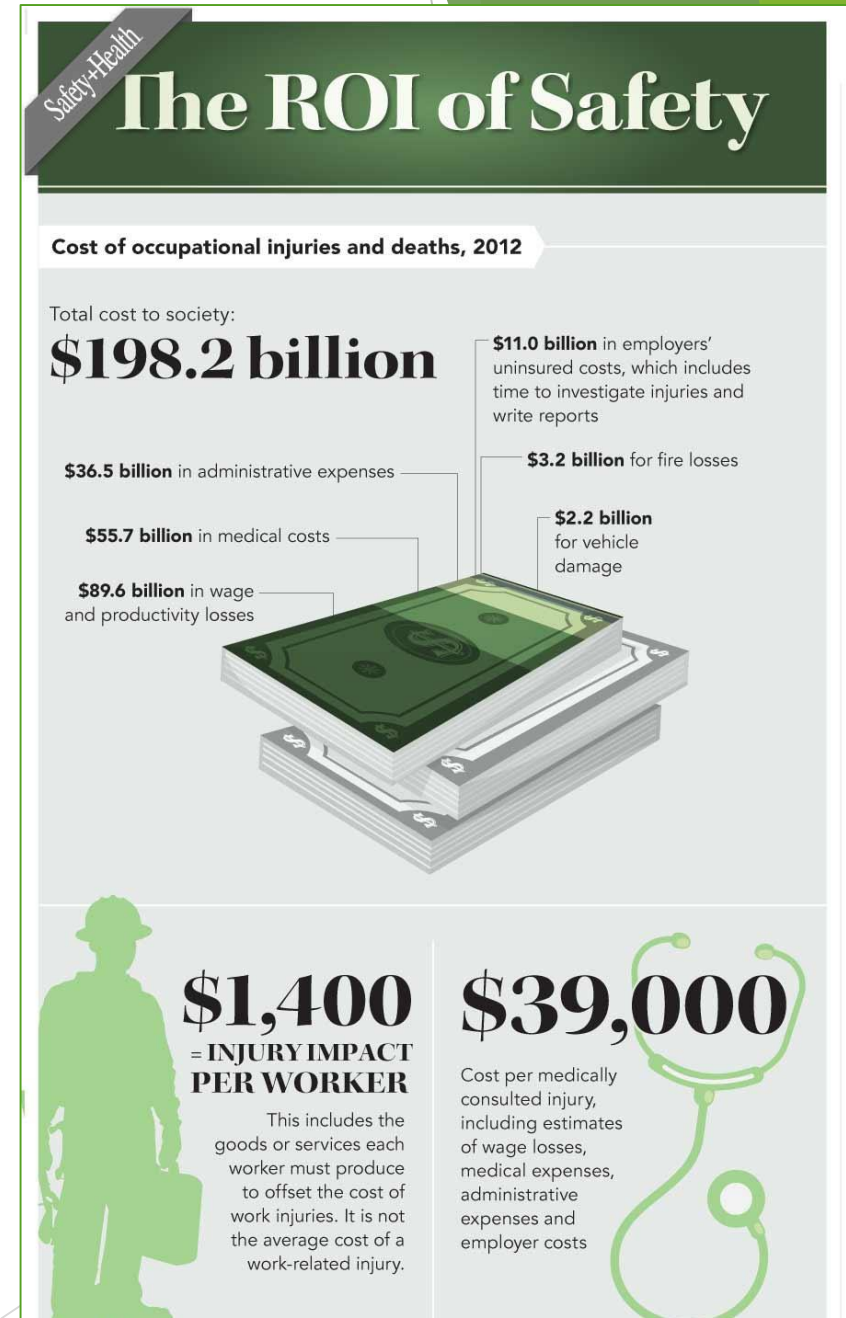
Total Cost of An Accident

(...after you make that terrible phone call)

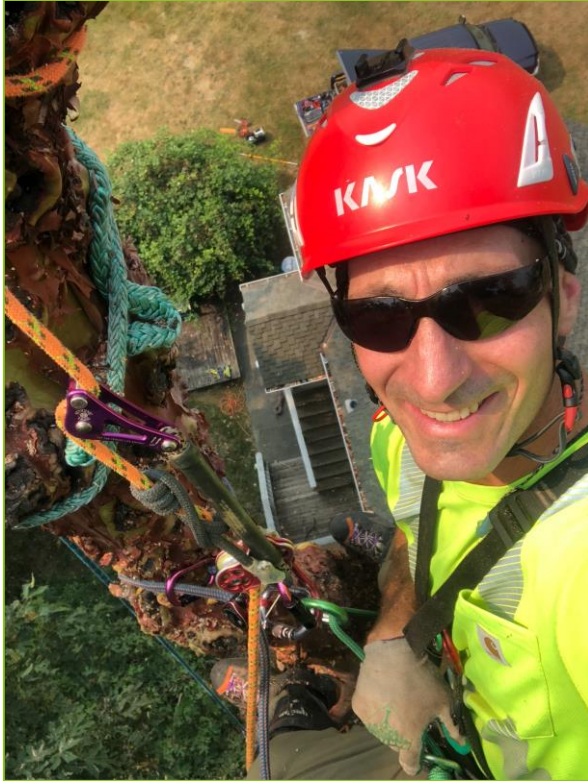
Average costs of a workplace fatality

- ▶ Direct: \$991,027
- ▶ Indirect: \$1,420,000 to \$3,000,000

Source: Safety+Health Magazine: May 23, 2014



What Can We Do Differently?



- ▶ Protect climbers
- ▶ Protect our businesses

***Acknowledge the risks
and take action!***

#1

Inspect Climbing Gear Immediately

- ▶ Company and employee-owned
- ▶ Be thorough
- ▶ Replace as needed (per manufacturer)
- ▶ Schedule next full inspection
- ▶ Enforce daily inspection



Documentation Tools

PPE & Climbing Gear Inspection Record

Victorian Tree Industry Org. - Australia

http://vtio.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/VTIO_PPE__Climbing_Gear_Audit.xls

ITCC Gear Check Form

<https://www.itcc-isa.com/Portals/0/Docs/2018-ITCC-Gear-Check-Form.pdf>

Generic Descriptor	Make	Model	Identify
Head Protection			
Hearing Protection			
Foot Protection			
Eye Protection			
Tree Climbing Harness			
Tree Climbing Harness			
Swivel			
Access Rope 1			
Climbing Rope 1			
Climbing Rope 2			
Positioning Lanyard 1			
Positioning Lanyard 2			
Friction Hitch/Device 1			

ISA TCC Gear Check Forms 2018

Climbers! Please complete the unshaded boxes in the tables below with details of the equipment you intend to use for Gear Check. Following successful completion, please bring this paperwork to Gear Check. Don't forget to put your name and number on each page.

Gear Check Technician - Once you've approved this climber's gear, please initial all completed pages of the Gear Check returned to the appointed official and initialed in the box to the right.

Note - Systems and Assemblies should be fully assembled during Gear Check.

Climber Name:	Anchor Assembly Checked?	Photo
Climber Number:		

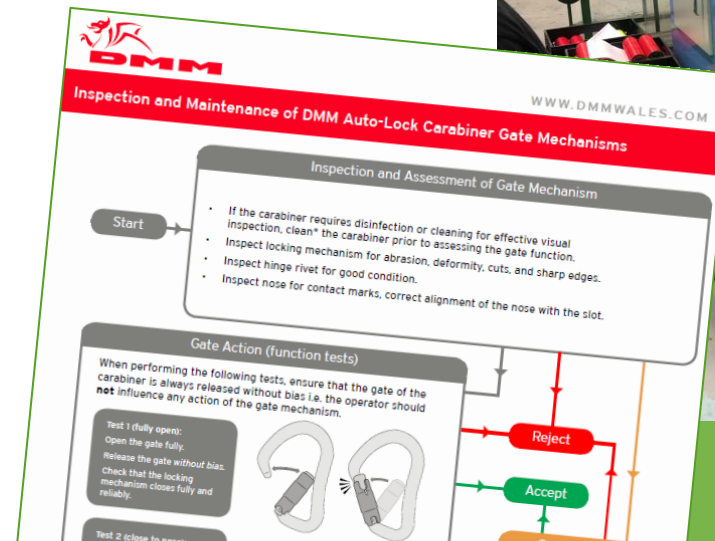
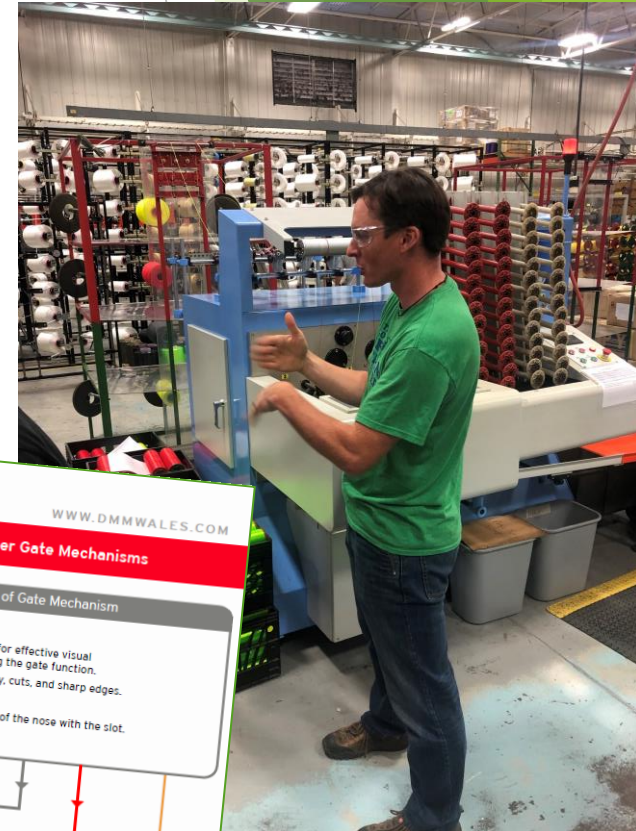
Work-Positioning System		Systems	
Category	Manufacturer	Product Name/ Description	Configuration
Work-positioning line with termination and stopper			
Rope adjustment device			
Micro pulley			
Carabiner 1			
Carabiner 2			

Work-Positioning Lanyard

#2

Train Employees to Inspect Gear

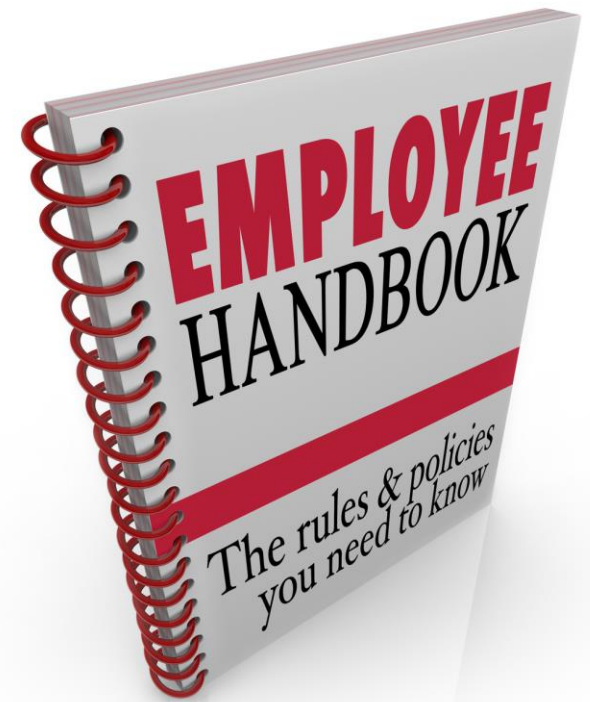
- ▶ Manufacturer documentation
- ▶ Safety meetings
- ▶ Climbing competitions
- ▶ Attend formal training
- ▶ Document all training



#3

Establish Gear Policies

- ▶ List of approved gear
- ▶ Company vs. employee-owned
- ▶ Inventory of assigned gear
- ▶ Plan for replacement



Take Action

- ▶ Tree work has inherent risks
- ▶ The law is clear... climbing gear is PPE
- ▶ Employers are responsible for safety...
(Provide, Train, Inspect, Document & Enforce)
- ▶ You can improve safety immediately

Protect your climbers... and your business!



Q&A

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