

41 Ways for Tree Care Businesses to Reduce Risk

Reduce Falls

- Supply hard hats, climbing spurs, harnesses, saddles, and climbing lines.
- Gather input from employees on how to stay safe on job sites.
- Ensure employees can identify hazards and they know how to avoid them.
- Require employees to use fall protection and proper climbing techniques.
- Train employees on how to steer clear of drop zones.
- Comply with all necessary safety regulations.
- Monitor workers for safety practices and weather-related health concerns.
- Take extra precautions when working around power lines.

Reduce Risks in Hot Weather

- Check the forecast and consider rescheduling work if it's too hot.
- Train employees on how to recognize signs of heat exhaustion and dehydration.
- Allow workers to take breaks from the heat.
- Supply plenty of drinking water.
- Monitor workers who seem to be affected by the heat.
- Encourage workers to wear lighter-colored clothing which does not absorb the heat as much as dark clothing.
- Encourage tree workers to wear waterproof sunscreen with a high SPF rating.

Reduce Risks in Cold Weather

- Reduce the time employees spend outside by using relief workers or rotating schedules.
- Provide warming tents or trailers where workers can get warm.
- Provide dry clothing for workers to change into.
- Provide cold-weather gear such as hats, boots, and gloves.
- Monitor employees for signs of hypothermia or frostbite.
- Make first aid kits with chemical heat packs and a thermometer accessible on job sites.

Reduce Chemical Risks

- Choose products with the lowest toxicity levels when possible.
- Require workers to read the labels and follow the instructions exactly when using them.
- Require workers to wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as noted on the label.
- Provide workers with Material Safety Data Sheets that outline necessary precautions.
- Prohibit workers from eating, drinking, or smoking when using pesticides and chemicals.
- Require workers to wash their hands thoroughly after using chemicals or pesticides even if they wear gloves.
- Require workers to place chemicals and pesticides in the bed of a truck rather than the cab.
- Encourage workers to wash their clothing separately when they've used chemicals or pesticides.



Reduce Commercial Auto Accidents

Check the driving records of all drivers.

Keep an updated list of all approved drivers for the company.

Establish clear policies and procedures for driving company vehicles and ask drivers to sign a form acknowledging them.

Be sure all approved drivers understand what their responsibilities are if they get into an accident.

Be proactive if a driver gets into an auto accident and work closely with the claims adjuster.

Establish a plan for repairing and maintaining vehicles.

Check Equipment Before Using It

Inspect belts and harnesses for cracks, cuts, and broken stitching.

Be sure clips, buckles, and rivets are not broken or loose.

Inspect ropes and lanyards for signs of wear, fraying, or sun damage.

Be sure snap catches and carabiners close properly and they are the right size for the D-rings.

Supply protection for the eyes and ears such as protective eyewear and ear plugs.

Store saws, ropes, and harnesses in one location when not being used.

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900 Route 9 North, Ste. 503
Woodbridge, NJ 07095-1003



Phone: 800.446.7647
Fax: 732.791.1630



info@nipgroup.com
www.nipgroup.com