

ASWP 15 R0

Clearing Saw Use



Revision History

Version	Revision Date	Brief Description of Revisions
R0	February 2016	Document has been updated to new format.

ARBORIST SAFE WORK PRACTICES

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Workplace Safety & Prevention Services wishes to express its appreciation to those who have assisted in the preparation of the **Arborist SafeWorkPractices** guide.

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1.0 Introduction

This document outlines the safe work practices involved in operating a clearing saw to remove brush.

2.0 Hazards

The following hazards have been identified to aid in establishing and maintaining a safe work environment when operating a clearing saw to remove brush:

Biotic Conditions
Animal Conditions
Electrical Conditions
Body Mechanics
Mechanical

Note: The above list of hazards is not a complete list and a thorough job plan should be completed to identify existing hazards found at the work site.

3.0 Legislation / Safe Work Practices

The following information has been provided listing arborist safe work practices and legislation requirements:

- ASWP01 General Legislation
- ASWP01 Work in a Safe Environment
- ASWP02 Protect Self and Others
- ASWP02 Arborist Job Planning

Legislation	RRO / RSO	Section Referenced
Industrial	851/90	22, 23
Construction	213/91	21

4.0 Mandatory Information / Work Practices

The following are the general mandatory requirements for an arborist when working with a clearing saw to remove brush.

- All Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) must be worn
- All workers shall maintain a distance of 10 metres (30 feet) away from the operator
- Cold saws shall be started on the ground
- Warm saws should be started on the ground or started using a second person if saw is attached to the operators harness

- All brush shall be monitored for falling direction
- Safe Limits of Approach shall be followed
- Brush greater than 10 cm (4 inches) DBH should not be cut with a clearing saw
- Ensure manufacturers' instructions are readily available and have been understood by the operator

5.0 Work Practice

The following information will provide general information that is required when working with a clearing saw to remove brush.

Note: Refer to owner / operator manuals for specific clearing saw operation / maintenance.

5.1 Site Inspection

Step	Action
Inspect equipment	Inspect for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cracks • Sharp blade • Set of blade is appropriate
Adjust clearing saw harness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjust harness for saw so that the saw blade will not contact the feet of the operator
Inspect Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	All PPE must be worn including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hardhat • Hearing protection • Eye protection • Foot protection.
Inspect work site	Inspect for and set appropriate barriers for all hazards and obstacles including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electrical conductors • Terrain • Brush height • Brush size

Step	Action
Start saw	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure saw blade is not touching the ground or obstacles • Maintain a firm grip on the saw <p><u>Cold Start</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start saw on ground following manufacturer's instruction <p><u>Warm Start</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On the back of the operator using a second person • Assistant moves away from operator when started

5.2 Cutting Operation

Step	Action
Start cutting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor blade location • Ensure all workers maintain 10 metres away from operator • Do not cut brush above shoulder height • Brush greater than 10 cm (4 inches) DBH must not be cut with a brush saw • Monitor terrain to ensure good traction while cutting • Cut with the appropriate side of blade; refer to the manufacturer's instruction • Ensure the blade is operating at full speed before cutting