

# 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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# Contents

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Hazards
- 3.0 Legislation / Safe Work Practices
- 4.0 Mandatory Information / Work Practices
- 5.0 Work Practice
  - 5.1 Site inspection
  - 5.2 Cutting Operation

# 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
<a href="#">Industrial</a>	851/90	22, 23
<a href="#">Construction</a>	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"> <li>• Cracks</li> <li>• Sharp blade</li> <li>• Set of blade is appropriate</li> </ul>
Adjust clearing saw harness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adjust harness for saw so that the saw blade will not contact the feet of the operator</li> </ul>
Inspect Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	All PPE must be worn including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hardhat</li> <li>• Hearing protection</li> <li>• Eye protection</li> <li>• Foot protection.</li> </ul>
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"> <li>• Electrical conductors</li> <li>• Terrain</li> <li>• Brush height</li> <li>• Brush size</li> </ul>

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

## 5.2 Cutting Operation

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