

ASWP 01 R0

Introduction & General Legislation



Revision History

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

ARBORIST SAFE WORK PRACTICES

DISCLAIMER

The contents of the **Arborist** Safe Work Practices (ASWP), including all advice, recommendations, and procedures are provided as a service by Workplace Safety & Prevention Services (formerly known as the Farm Safety Association of Ontario). No representation of any kind is made to any person whatsoever with regard to accuracy, completeness or sufficiency of the material. Any and all use of these practices, or anything found herein, is solely and entirely at the user's risk.

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

The Arborist Safe Work Practices (ASWP) are safe work guidelines, written by the industry, for the industry. The Arborist Safe Work Practices committee has evolved since its inception in 1999 to a well-defined working committee that provides support to various safety related issues in the arborist industry. A milestone was reached on January 1, 2011 when the committee put in place its Terms of Reference to ensure consistency within the committee structure and to ensure its continuance.

1.1 Purpose

The Arborist Industry Safe Work Practices (ASWP) committee is a volunteer committee for the arborist trade in Ontario whose purpose is to assist businesses, government agencies and Safe Workplace Associations to improve the health and safety of the arboricultural industry.

This purpose is satisfied by:

- The management and control of the content of the Arborist Industry Safe Work Practices document
- Providing a location for government agencies such as: Safety Associations, MoL to access knowledge, skills and experience on health and safety related to arboricultural matters

1.2 ASWP Committee

The guiding principle for Committee membership will be a commitment to improving health and safety of the arboricultural workplace.

Membership on the Committee is open to anyone employed or employs workers directly within the arboriculture sector.

Consideration for membership to the Committee will require an application to the Chair. The Chair will present the credentials of the new member to the Committee for consideration. Committee members will vote on all applicants to the Committee with a Majority Rule decision.

Committee makeup will attempt to have an equal representation of employers and employees. Committee makeup will be limited to twelve (12) members, including the Chair and Co-Chair positions, and will include all facets of the industry:

- Commercial (4 members)
- Municipal (4 members)
- Utility (4 members)

The ASWP Committee recognizes that without the dedication and volunteer hours of several organizations and individuals from within the industry and health and safety associations the safe work practices would not have been developed. The ASWP Committee recognizes those efforts of the organizations below.

Recognition of Organizations and Businesses	
Arbor Valley Tree Service	Davey Tree Service
Bruce Tree Service	Gardiner Tree Service
City of Toronto	Hydro One
Workplace Safety and Prevention Services	Ministry of Labour
Infrastructure Health & Safety Association	ISA – Ontario Chapter
WSIB	Ontario Commercial Arborist Association
MTCU	Ontario Parks Association
Humber College	Sir Sanford Fleming College

2.0 Arborist Safe Work Practices Defined

2.1 Scope

The Arborist Safe Work Practices (ASWP) contain arboricultural safety requirements for planting, pruning, repairing, maintaining and removing woody plants, cutting brush and for using equipment in such operations, outside of the Construction or Industrial Legislated Limits of Approach to energized electrical apparatus. For work within the Construction or Industrial legislated Limits of Approach the user should contact the Infrastructure Health and Safety Association.

2.2 Purpose

The work practices provide safety criteria for **arborists** and other workers involved in arboricultural work. They are to act as a guide to Provincial, Municipal and other local authorities in drafting regulations and may be adopted in whole or in part.

2.3 Application

The ASWP is intended to apply to all employees engaged in the business or trade of arboriculture including: planting, pruning, repairing, maintaining, removing woody plants, or cutting brush. They are not intended for use by nursery personnel, who are growing and planting trees for wholesale. The ASWP serves as a reference for safety requirements for those engaged in the practice of arboriculture. The safe work practices may require situational modifications in response to personnel emergencies and is not intended to limit the options available to emergency responders.

2.4 Detail of ASWP's

The Arborist Safe Work Practices contains several pieces of information to be used to create a safe work environment. The user should follow the document and all supporting information.

Each safe work practice document is broken into several sections:

Potential Hazards

This section will include some of the hazards that may be encountered while performing the work.

Legislation

Legislation that is applicable to the practice and the supporting Arborist Safe Work Practices document.

Mandatory Information

This information is required to be followed when performing the specific work practice.

Work Practice

This is a practice that should be used as a guideline for performing the work

3.0 How to Use the ASWP

The development of the ASWP included a review of legislative requirements found under the OHSA, Construction and Industrial Regulations. The Safe Work Practices do not supersede legislative requirements but enhance what is found there. The ASWP do not supersede what is found in the manufacturer's instructions. Electrical hazards must be identified prior to performing any work and readers are directed to the Electrical Safety Rule Book for further information.

In developing the ASWP each task was broken down to its most basic components and from those, a safe work practice was developed. There are no procedures in the ASWP but a series of suggested practices to follow. A task being performed may utilize one or more practices, but the basic safety steps will always be the same no matter how the task is performed.

Note: Suggestions for improvement or changes should be in writing, faxed or emailed to Workplace Safety & Prevention Services:

- Fax 1-877-494-9777 or
- customercare@wsps.ca

The ASWP documents are broken into individual documents. The Revision Number indicates to the reader the revision history of the document. The on line version is considered the most current document and the reader should consult the on line Revision Number to ensure they are viewing the most current version. The Revision History describes in brief detail the most recent changes to the document.

4.0 General Legislation

The following sections of the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA) apply to the trade of arboriculture and form the foundation for all of the *Arborist* Safe Work Practices. It *should* be noted that the applicable legislation sets minimum standards for the trade. Specific legislation relating to a work practice will be indicated in each individual work practice section.

Note: Not all sections of the OHSA and Regulations have been indicated here or in other *Arborist* Safe Work Practices. It is the responsibility of individuals to know and understand applicable legislation and apply them as required. The most current edition of the OHSA is accessible through e-laws.

- OHSA 25 (1) (a) Duties of Employer: ensure that the equipment, materials and protective devices as prescribed are provided.
- OHSA 25 (1) (b) Duties of Employer: ensure that the equipment, materials and protective devices provided by the employer are maintained in good condition.
- OHSA 25 (1) (d) Duties of Employer: ensure that the equipment, materials and protective devices provided by the employer are used as prescribed.
- OHSA 25 (2) (a) Duties of Employer: provide information, instruction and supervision to a worker to protect the health or safety of the worker.
- OHSA 25 (2) (h) Reasonable Precautions: take every precaution reasonable in the circumstances for the protection of a worker.
- OHSA 26 (1) (k) Additional Duties of Employers: where so prescribed provide a worker with written instructions as to the measures and procedures to be taken for the protection of a worker.
- OHSA 27 (1) (a) Duties of Supervisor: *shall* ensure that a worker works in a manner and with the protective devices, measures and procedures required by this Act and the regulations
- OHSA 27 (1) (b) Duties of Supervisor: *shall* ensure that a worker uses or wears the equipment, protective devices or clothing that the worker's employer requires to be used or worn.
- OHSA 27 (2) (b) Duties of a Supervisor: *shall* where so prescribed, provide a worker with written instructions as to the measures and procedures to be taken for the protection of the worker.

- OHS 27 (2) (c) Duties of a Supervisor protection of a worker
- OHS 28 (1) (a) Duties of Worker: shall work in compliance with the provisions of the Act and the regulations
- OHS 28 (1) (b) Duties of Worker: shall use or wear the equipment, protective devices or clothing that the worker's employer requires to be used or worn.