

3D Safety talks

FROM THE ISAO SAFETY COMMITTEE:

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)



For many Arborists, hazardous activity is unavoidable. However, there are steps that arborists can take to further mitigate the dangers associated with tree work. Some of these steps include:

- ◆ Developing procedures that cover proper training and work site protocols.
- ◆ Creating a proper and safely laid out work area.
- ◆ Utilizing appropriate PPE, which is the point of this safety discussion.

PPE associated with tree work (Chainsaw pants, gloves, helmets etc.) did not originate from marketing efforts, convenience or style. Rather, it was brought into our industry as a response to injured or lost members of the industry. The #1 priority of any arborist is to make it home every night!

Understanding how we can make this industry safer is a goal worth striving for in any and all working conditions.

DESCRIBE the hazards

Tree workers can be exposed to:

- ◆ Tight work spaces, structurally hazardous trees, full sprawling canopies, an abundance of targets, and crew members moving about the worksite.
- ◆ When thinking of PPE, chainsaw pants, hard hats, hi-vis, eye & ear protection, as well as rated saddles and ropes are usually at the top of the list of common safety gear. These forms of PPE help to mitigate the direct hazards encountered with tree work.

DISCUSS control measures

Other forms of PPE that provide more long-term benefits are items less considered because they are not

mandated to us. Some of the long-term PPE that we should acknowledge and take into consideration are things like:

- ◆ Properly fitting work boots to avoid ankle and back issues.
- ◆ Wearing hi-vis clothing even when not working directly by a road way. These items make you more visible to your co-workers.
- ◆ The use of winter work boots, gloves, toques, loop scarves, etc. to avoid exposure injuries such as frostbite.
- ◆ Wearing gloves to lessen the long-term effects of vibration like white knuckle disease.
- ◆ Taking the time set up and balance all the gear and tools on our saddles.
- ◆ Inspect hardhats to identify cracks, dents and confirm expiry date.

When it comes to using PPE to protect yourself and your crew members, we all hopefully do the best we can. We need to keep in mind that it can be the little things that keep us protected over the course of our careers, so take care of yourself the best you can.

DEMONSTRATE knowledge

Review any company standard operating procedures (SOP) & policies regarding the required PPE for your tasks. Talk to your crew members about what they can do to improve their safety for the day to day and long-term.

Additional information on this topic is available by viewing or downloading the Arborist Safe Work Practices manual at

<https://www.isaontario.com/safety/>

Date: _____

Location: _____

Presenter: _____

MEETING WAS ATTENDED BY
(Each participant is to sign below)

