

Tree Climbing Felling
SWMS #4

Safe Work Method Statement
Required for all High Risk Activities identified for the Project



* This column is used to undertake frequent Workplace Audits/Inspection to verify controls are in place.

If a control measure is "ongoing" indicate: "ONGOING". If "one off" action required ie. to eliminate a hazard in the workplace a sign off is required from person responsible for implementation of the action.

THIS PROJECT RISK ASSESSMENT/SWMS MUST BE AUTHORISED AS CORRECT AND APPLICABLE BY A DIRECTOR OR OHS MANAGER & the PROJECT MANAGER & SUPERVISOR PRIOR TO USE

LATEST UPDATES ARE SHADED!!

ADDRESS: Various JOB ACTIVITY: Tree Climbing Felling SWMS No: 4 SWMS. SWMS Date: 28/1/15		Site Supervisor: Various Last Review Date: : 14/11/16 SWMS must be reviewed whenever necessary eg. If something changes or there is an incident or near miss.		OHS Regulations, Codes & Standards Reviewed By: All staff				
Task/Item/ Job Step	Hazards Identified Situation that could cause injury or illness when task is performed.	Risk rating	Practical Risk Control Measures/Job Method List control measures required to eliminate or minimise the risk of injury from the identified hazard in accordance with the HIERARCHY OF RISK CONTROL MEASURES.	Control Type	Permit to Work/ Competency Required? YES/NO Type	Responsible Supervisor or above to implement control action	#Action Taken Sign Off	*Audit Check Off * or ✓

Names of staff that have read and understand this SWMS: **Stephen Bayley, Angus Cullenward, Daniel Bayley, Ashley Morrison, David Smith**

Driving to/ Arriving at Site	Road traffic Fatigue Unlicensed driver Unregistered vehicle Uninsured vehicle Unsafe vehicles Old vehicles	1	Ensure all applicable road laws are observed Take regular breaks, rotate drivers if applicable Driver to carry current endorsed licence on person at all times if applicable All vehicles (including those belonging to employees) must have; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • current registration • current third party insurance as a minimum, comprehensive preferred • Roadworthy or a safety inspection certificate in the past 12 months. Ensure, where practicable, that vehicles are less than 15 years old, where vehicles over 15 years old are to be used the maintenance and presentation level of the vehicles must be increased to ensure safe operation	6	Drivers Licence Insurances Registrations Roadworthy or safety inspection	Field Crew		
Emergency Preparedness	Unsuitable communication plan Unsuitable First Aid Kit or Spill Kit Unsuitable emergency evacuation plan in case of wild fire	2	Identify means of emergency communication with external parties. Each team member to have a Telstra mobile phone in good working order & with credit. Ensure First Aid Kit, Spill Kit and Fire extinguisher/knapsack are stocked and accessible. Ensure current MSDS available on vehicle.	6	First Aid Level 2 Telstra mobile phone with credit for each team	Field Crew		

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#4

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	Flood/vehicle bogging Anaphylaxis due to allergic reaction Allergic reaction to insect sting/bite		Plan fire escape routes. Plan flood escape routes, park vehicles away from water courses and off roads that will become unpassable when wet. Have personal epi pen for any allergic team members. Have personal antihistamine substance available for use.		member Fire Awareness First aid level 2			
Review Work Planned for the day	Unsuitable Plant, Equipment or Tools	1 2	Conduct visual inspection of all fall arrest and rigging equipment prior to and during each use as per Health and safety audit V1 section 4. Conduct safety inspection of all tools (including chainsaws) prior to, during and after each use.	5	Chainsaw Climbing ticket	Field Crew		
Setting up site/ Pre start checks	Movement of vehicles Structures/Services Plant Falls of people (incl. trips/slips) Falling objects Noise Dangerous domestic Animals	1	Complete pre start checks for all plant and equipment. Conduct a worksite Hazard Assessment and complete HAC, Nominate approach limits and appoint Safety Observer. Visually inspect site for services/structures, delineate if necessary Ensure use of a Safety Observer when reversing and positioning vehicles. Ensure stability of vehicles, check ground prior to set-up, utilize wheel chocks. Ensure all equipment is correctly stowed when not in use to prevent trip hazard and unnecessary damage to equipment. Ensure fall protection devices fit for use and correctly used as appropriate. Delineate drop zone and keep zone clear. Ensure PPE is available and used. Minimum PPE includes; helmet with visor/earmuffs, gloves, chainsaw pants, steel toe boots, long sleeve cotton high visibility shirt and safety glasses. Visual inspection for any animals. Contact owner to restrain or remove	5	Manual Handling Hearing Conservation Pre start induction	Field Crew		

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#4

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	Traffic / Pedestrians Unsuitable Weather		any domestic or farm animals. Delineate worksite and utilise a Safety Observer. Assess weather for extreme wind, rain, hail etc. Adjust tasks to be performed if necessary - wait for rain/wind to ease. Perform other tasks while waiting.					
Exposure to elements	Heat stroke, sun burn, hypothermia, dehydration	2 3	Have available and utilise appropriate sun protection including; helmet with visor, sun screen, sunglasses, long sleeved cotton high visibility shirts, long pants and gloves. Stop work if temperature above 36 degrees. Wear appropriate cold/wet weather gear. Have plenty of personal drinking water available on site. Ensure each worker has food available on site.		Sun smart policy inducted Uniform policy inducted Personal lunch policy inducted			
Fuelling	Flammable hazard Inhalation and skin contact hazard	2 3	Refuel in well-ventilated area. Ensure machine is off when refuelling, using approved containers only. Ensure fire extinguisher is present and in serviceable condition. Wear gloves, refer MSDS for action required if skin contact or spill.	6	Refuelling policy induction	Field Crew		
Sharpening Chain	Cuts Burns Incorrect technique resulting in uneven chain	2 2 2	Replace chain guard when not in use, wear appropriate gloves, sharpen chain frequently and replace as required. Restrain saw whilst sharpening, use correct tools, ensure chain sharpening is even along entire chain.	2 5		Field Crew		
Assess vegetation to be climbed felled	Unstable, hanging branches, decayed, damaged, dead sections, structural defects, vines existing in trees or limbs Bee hives, European wasp nests, Bull ants, Possums,	3	Thoroughly inspect tree prior to cutting to assess safe size and technique for limb removal or felling. Adjust piece sizes to ensure control. Employ ropes/rigging to lower and control falling limbs. Inspect tree prior to cutting and remove insects/fauna if present. Treat insect pests with pesticide or organize fauna rescue service if required. If an occupied native bird nest is discovered reschedule work. Identify the voltage and type of all services. Identify if work to be		Assess trees Tree climbing Rigging Confined space tree removal	Field Crew		

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#4

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	Koalas and insect sting Proximity of vegetation to Electrical Hazard		completed is under live line or shutdown/access permit conditions. Ensure auto reclose suppressions is in place as required Note: under Tree Watch policy the exclusion zone around HV is 1.5m (not the conventional 700mm) Visually inspect the tree for rot, hollows, root structure or any defect which may cause the tree to fail unexpectedly. If any significant fault/s identified do not climb tree.		Limits of approach Auto reclose suppression policy inducted Pest control license			
Tree climbing	Falls from heights Sprains and stains Crushing injury Stranded/stuck up in tree Anaphalaxis due to allergic reaction to insect sting/bite Electrical Hazards	1	Ensure two points of attachment and three points of contact at all time. Have a rescue kit on site and that the observer is trained in areal rescue. All workers must have manual handling training, employ correct climbing technics and use mechanical assistance - where possible. No conductive/steel core flielines/ropes to be used in proximity to an electrical hazard.	6 5 2	Climbing/ rescue First aid level 2	Field crew		
Temporary access to heights up to and over 2m	A fall from a ladder/work platform or other temporary access may injure a worker	1 2	Work from a safe platform. Use fall protection over heights of 2m. When working on a ladder stay below the 3 rd highest rung, use only insulated ladders when near power lines and secure the ladder at 4:1 pitch.	5	Ladder training induction Working at heights Climbing Rescue	Field crew		
Working below or near workers who are working at heights	Objects could fall and injure workers below	1 2	Where possible prevent workers from working below other workers working at heights where falling objects are possible. Helmets are essential.	5		Field crew		

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#4

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Operation of chainsaw whilst clearing/climbing/felling	Crush, trip, slip, fall Powerline clearance Strains / sprains Kick back of one handed chainsaws causing cuts Tree trunk or limb slabing/splitting during cutting causing crushing injury Climbing spurs causing cuts puncture wounds Legs, limbs being crushed by large limbs being cut and swung against trunk	1 2	<p>Safety Observer aerial rescue person to be present at all times</p> <p>Ensure Fall protection devices fit for use and correctly utilised. Ensure all equipment stowed and secured - practice good housekeeping. Maintain limits of approach and Utilise Safety Observer. Note: under Tree Watch policy the exclusion zone around HV is 1.5m (not the conventional 700mm) Personnel on ground to maintain safe distance from drop zone. Position yourself to avoid overstretching/overreaching and cut pieces to manageable size. Observe terrain to prevent slipping, tripping or falling Delineate worksite and utilise Safety Observer</p> <p>Do not use a non insulated pole saw whilst climbing in a tree. When practical use both hands on the saw. Asses tree/limb for likelihood of splitting or slabing. If this risk exists then alter method of cutting or find safe alternative.</p> <p>Always take extra precautions when climbing on spurs (three points of contact), keep the spurs correctly sharpened to avoid spur slipping out whilst climbing. Correctly position body to exclude limbs from crushing zone, stand around back of tree whilst cutting and alter cutting technique if not possible to safely cut.</p> <p>Remember: most saws are a conductive – operators must remain vigilant when working near power lines and ensure that safe</p>	5	Chainsaw level 2 Felling of large trees Tree clearing and pruning Climbing/rescue First aid level 2 Assess trees	Field Crew		
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Clear Vegetation	Unsafe work practice Kickback Falling objects/branches Flying particles Dust and debris entering eyes Manual Handling	1 1 2 2 2 2	<i>clearances are maintained.</i> Ensure all personnel have current training for task. Correct use of saw; always use both hands to control saw, adjust stance as necessary to maintain control of saw and ensure chain is sharp. Avoid cutting with tip of bar. Safety observer to ensure no-one enters drop zone. Maintain safe distance from other personnel - minimum 2 meters. Utilise eye protection. Adjust piece size and utilise team lifting.	5		Field crews		
Transporting Fuel and Oil	Flammable hazard Fuel or Oil spill	1	Ensure only approved containers are used for storage and transport of fuels and oils. Do not allow naked flame near fuels/oils. Ensure applicable MSDS are available on vehicle. Ensure secure Fuel and Oil storage area on vehicle.	3 5		Field Crews		
Clean up worksite	Property damage Slip or trip hazard Blockage of drainage lines Poor workmanship Injury from tool or equipment Vehicle/Equipment damage or loss	2 3	Ensure any ground surface disturbance is returned to pre-work state or cordoned off until such works can be undertaken. Traffic control is the last item to be removed from the site, notify the site supervisor (and/or owner) prior to final removal. Ensure all debris is removed from site or stacked neatly for later retrieval. Check entire site prior to departure to ensure a professional finish and to recover any forgotten equipment. Isolate and disconnect tools, fit protective covers/sleeves prior to stowing. Ensure all items are securely stowed in appropriate locker or otherwise secured prior to travelling between sites.	5		Field Crews		

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Plant & Equipment to be Used	Inspection and maintenance checks carried out
PPE – Hard hat with visor, Ear muffs Gloves Long sleeved cotton high visibility shirt Cut resist pants Protective eyewear Steel toe boots ankle high lace up boots	Helmet replaced 2 yrs from date of issue, In serviceable condition, fit for purpose. All other PPE must be clean and in good condition. Boots must be intact and undamaged.
First Aid Kit	Replenish stock as required, annual inspection.
Fire extinguisher	Fit for purpose – annual inspection.
Chainsaws	Safety inspection prior to, during and after use.
Petrol/Oil	Visual Check for leaks and damage to container.
Oil Spill Kit	Fit for purpose – Bi-annual inspection
Climbing and rigging gear	Safety inspection prior to, during and after use. No Steel/Conductive Core fliplines to be used.
Vehicle	Pre start up check prior to use, roadworthy or safety inspection in the past 12 months.
Felling equipment	Safety inspection prior to, during and after use.
Ladders	Meet Australian standard and Safety inspection prior to, during and after use.

Qualification/training required for this activity:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manual Handling Hearing Conservation Worksite Traffic Management (1 on site) Vesi Environment Vesi safety framework (white card) Limits of approach Tree pruning 2 courses First Aid Level 2 CPR Fire awareness Chainsaw Level 1 Chainsaw level 2 Arial rescue Fell large trees Tree climbing

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The persons (employees, subcontractors and others) that have signed below:

1. been involved in the hazard/risk assessment and the determination of the hazard/risk controls applicable to their tasks, duties and responsibilities
2. had all hazards and risk controls have been communicated to them
3. and are fully aware of and understand the hazards/risks and safety risk controls and rules required
4. agreed to all the hazard/risk controls
5. agreed to and understand their Duty of Care to themselves and others
6. agreed that they are the person responsible for site supervision of the work, inspecting and approving work areas, work methods, compliance with SWMS, protective measures, plant, equipment and power tools.

Print name clearly date a sign here:

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OHS Regulations, Codes, Standards reviewed and incorporated in developing the risk control measures contained in this document:

OHS Regulations (Vic).	✓	Codes of Practice & Standards	✓
Occupational Health and Safety (Asbestos) Regulations 2007		Confined Spaces (September 2008)	
Occupational Health and Safety (Manual Handling) Regulations 2007	✓	Removing Asbestos in Workplaces (September 2008)	
Occupational Health and Safety (Prevention of Falls) Regulations 2007	✓	Dangerous Goods Storage and Handling (No. 27, 2000)	
Occupational Health and Safety (Confined Spaces) Regulations 2007		First Aid in the Workplace (September 2008)	✓
Occupational Health and Safety (Plant) Regulations 2007	✓	Prevention of Falls in General Construction (September 2008)	✓
Occupational Health and Safety (High Risk Work) Regulations 2007	✓	Hazardous Substances (No. 24, June 2000)	✓
Occupational Health and Safety (Hazardous Substances) Regulations 2007	✓	Plant (No. 19, 1995)	✓
Occupational Health and Safety (Lead) Regulations 2007		Plant (Amendment No 1) (No. 23, 1998)	✓
Occupational Health and Safety (Hazardous Industries) Regulations 2007	✓	Safety Precautions in Trenching Operations (No. 8, 1998)	
Occupational Health and Safety (Licences and Registration) Regulations 2007	✓	Manual Handling (No. 25, 2000)	✓
Occupational Health and Safety Act, 2004	✓	Manual of uniform traffic control Devices AS1742.3-2009	✓
Road Management Act 2004		Electrical Installations – Construction and Demolition Sites AS3012	
Road Management Regulations 2005		In Service Safety & Inspection of Electrical Equipment AS370	
Occupational Health and Safety Noise Regulations 2007	✓	Safe Working in a Confined Space AS2865	
		AS 4363-1996 Pruning of Amenity trees	✓
		Working safely with trees (work safe)	✓