

1. Policy Statement

At TREECO LTD, we are committed to providing a safe and healthy working environment for all employees, contractors, clients, and visitors. We recognize that arboriculture and tree management carry inherent risks, and we aim to minimize these through robust health and safety procedures, training, and continuous improvement. This policy outlines the measures we take to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of everyone involved in our operations, both in domestic and commercial settings.

2. Responsibilities

- **Management:**
TREECO LTD management is responsible for implementing this Health & Safety Policy, ensuring that resources are available to maintain safe working conditions, and regularly reviewing the policy to comply with legal requirements and industry best practices.
- **Employees:**
Every employee is responsible for following TREECO's safety procedures and policies, attending mandatory training sessions, and reporting any hazards or incidents immediately to their supervisor.
- **Contractors & Visitors:**
Contractors and visitors are expected to comply with TREECO's health and safety procedures while on-site.

3. Risk Management

- **Risk Assessment:** A comprehensive risk assessment will be conducted for every project or site before commencing work. This includes identifying potential hazards, assessing the risks, and implementing control measures to mitigate them.
- **Domestic Tree Work:** For smaller-scale domestic projects, risk assessments will focus on areas such as property damage, power lines, and potential hazards to residents and the public. Safe access and egress to the property and site-specific hazards will also be assessed.
- **Commercial Tree Work:** Larger-scale commercial projects often involve higher levels of risk, including the presence of heavy machinery, greater height work, and larger work areas. Specific considerations will include traffic management, safe use of cranes or lifting equipment, and coordination with other contractors on-site.

4. Training, Competency, and Qualifications

- **Training:** All employees will receive industry-standard training relevant to their role and responsibilities. This includes first aid, proper use of personal protective equipment (PPE), climbing techniques, and machinery operation.
- **Arborist Qualifications:**
 - All arborists performing tree work must hold the National Proficiency Tests Council (NPTC) certification or an equivalent recognized qualification in arboriculture.
 - **Chainsaw Operations:** All chainsaw operators must have completed the NPTC Chainsaw and Related Operations certification, including qualifications for felling small to large trees.
 - **Climbing Arborists:** Tree climbing and aerial rescue work will be carried out by staff qualified with the NPTC Level 3 Award in Aerial Tree Rescue Operations and NPTC Level 3 Award in Aerial Cutting of Trees with a Chainsaw.
- **Commercial Projects:** Staff involved in large-scale commercial projects must hold Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) cards or equivalent qualifications for working on commercial sites, especially where construction or development work is taking place.
- **Ongoing Competency:** Employees will undergo regular skills assessments to ensure they are competent in their roles and aware of updated safety practices. Arborists will also receive

continuing professional development (CPD) training to maintain certifications and stay current with best practices in tree care and safety.

5. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

All employees and contractors are required to wear appropriate PPE when carrying out their duties. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Helmets
- Protective gloves
- Chainsaw-resistant trousers
- Safety boots
- Eye and ear protection

PPE must be maintained in good condition and worn at all times on-site as necessary. For climbers, additional PPE such as full-body harnesses and climbing ropes must meet industry standards for safety and functionality, and have valid LOLER records.

6. Machinery & Equipment Safety

- **Maintenance:** All machinery and equipment will be regularly inspected and maintained to ensure it is safe and in good working order. Any faulty equipment must be reported and taken out of service until repaired.
- **Chainsaw Safety:** All chainsaw users must adhere to safe operating procedures, including proper chain tensioning, kickback control, and working distance guidelines.
- **Climbing Equipment:** All climbing and rigging equipment, such as ropes, carabiners, and harnesses, will be inspected before each use and replaced if any signs of wear or damage are found.
- **Heavy Machinery:** Operators of cranes, wood chippers, stump grinders, and other heavy equipment must hold the relevant operator certifications, such as the NPTC Wood Chipper Operations certificate, and comply with all safety guidelines during use.

7. Emergency Procedures

- **First Aid:** Trained first aiders will be available at all work sites, and first aid kits will be easily accessible. In the event of an accident, employees are required to follow the emergency response procedure and report all incidents.
- **Emergency Tree Work:** For emergency tree work, such as storm damage clearance, specific rescue procedures must be in place for working at height or removing trees in precarious conditions. Employees must be prepared for rapid response situations and ensure that rescue and recovery equipment is available on-site.

8. Manual Handling

All staff are trained in proper manual handling techniques to prevent injury. This includes proper lifting techniques and the use of mechanical aids, such as loaders or cranes, where appropriate to reduce strain and avoid injury.

9. Environmental Safety

TREECO LTD is committed to protecting the environment and will ensure that all operations are conducted with minimal environmental impact. This includes safe disposal of waste, minimal use of chemicals, and careful planning to protect wildlife habitats during tree removal or pruning activities. In both domestic and commercial settings, all relevant environmental regulations will be adhered to.

10. Worksite Specific Procedures

Domestic Projects:

- TREECO will conduct site assessments to identify any risks related to public access, such as neighbours, passers-by, and domestic pets. Proper signage and fencing will be in place where necessary to restrict access during operations.
- TREECO staff will ensure that work is carried out with minimal disruption to the homeowner and property.

Commercial Projects:

- TREECO will work closely with site managers and contractors to coordinate tree work with other ongoing activities. This may include agreeing on work schedules, ensuring adequate space for machinery, and establishing clear communication channels to manage potential hazards such as overhead cables, underground utilities, or traffic management.

11. Policy Review

This Health & Safety Policy will be reviewed annually or more frequently if required by changes in legislation, operational activities, or company expansion into new services or work areas. Feedback from employees, clients, and regulatory bodies will be welcomed to ensure the continued effectiveness of this policy.

Signed: 

Managing Director TREECO LTD

Date: 01/09/2025