

Commercial Tree Trimming & Chainsaw Safety Inspection Checklist

Site / Project	_____	Address	_____
Inspector name	_____	Company	_____
Date	_____	Time	_____

Documentation aid only. Adapt this resource to the site, manufacturer instructions, and applicable local requirements. It does not replace a competent person, professional judgment, legal advice, or a required statutory form.

Inspection checklist

Pre-Job Drop Zone Assessment

☐ Is the drop zone clearly defined with high-visibility tape or cones, extending at least 1.5 times the height of the tree?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐ Are pedestrian and vehicle traffic control measures in place to prevent unauthorized entry into the drop zone (e.g., signage, flaggers)?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐ Has a thorough hazard assessment been conducted to identify potential obstacles within the drop zone (e.g., power lines, buildings, vehicles)?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐ Is there a clear communication plan in place between the climber, ground crew, and any necessary spotters?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐ Are emergency egress routes clearly identified and free from obstructions?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐ Have weather conditions (wind, rain, temperature) been assessed for potential impact on tree stability and worker safety?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐ Have underground utilities been located and marked before digging or operating heavy equipment?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐ Is equipment staged outside of the drop zone, in a manner that prevents accidental entry?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐ Have nearby residents or businesses been notified of the tree trimming operation?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____

☐	Is the site secured to prevent unauthorized access during breaks or after hours?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
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Chainsaw & PPE Inspection

☐	Are chainsaw chaps (meeting ASTM F1897) worn by all chainsaw operators and ground personnel within the drop zone?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
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☐	Is appropriate eye protection (safety glasses or face shield meeting ANSI Z87.1) worn by all personnel?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
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☐	Is hearing protection (earplugs or earmuffs with appropriate NRR) worn by all personnel when operating chainsaws or other loud equipment?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
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☐	Are hard hats (meeting ANSI Z89.1) worn by all personnel within the drop zone?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
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☐	Are appropriate work gloves worn to protect hands from cuts, abrasions, and vibration?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
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☐	Is the chainsaw in good working order, with a sharp chain, functional chain brake, and properly adjusted carburetor?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
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☐	Is the chainsaw equipped with a functional chain brake and kickback guard?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
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☐	Is fuel being handled and stored safely, away from ignition sources and in approved containers?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
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☐	Is a fully stocked first-aid kit readily available on site?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
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☐	Are chainsaw-rated boots worn by all chainsaw operators?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
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☐	Is the chainsaw started on the ground, with the chain brake engaged, and a firm grip?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
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Line Clearance Operations

☐	Are minimum approach distances to energized power lines maintained according to OSHA 1910.269(l)?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
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☐	Are insulated tools and equipment used when working near energized power lines?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
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☐	Is a qualified line clearance arborist (QLCA) present and supervising all line clearance work?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
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☐	Are all power lines clearly identified and their voltage known before starting work?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Is a dedicated spotter present to monitor the climber's proximity to power lines?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Are rubber gloves and sleeves (meeting ASTM D120) worn when within reaching distance of energized conductors?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	If using an aerial lift, is it properly insulated and tested according to ANSI A92.2?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Are proper grounding procedures followed to minimize the risk of electrical shock?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Is line clearance work suspended during adverse weather conditions (e.g., lightning, high winds)?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Was a pre-job briefing conducted specifically addressing the hazards of working near power lines?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____

Rigging & Fall Protection

☐	Are all rigging ropes inspected for damage (cuts, abrasions, chemical exposure) before each use?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Are rigging ropes of adequate strength (minimum breaking strength) for the intended load?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Is all rigging hardware (carabiners, pulleys, slings) in good working order and properly rated?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Is the climber wearing a full-body climbing harness (meeting ANSI Z359.11) that is properly fitted and inspected?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Is the lanyard inspected for wear, damage, and proper function?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Is a proper fall arrest system in place, including an anchor point capable of supporting 5,000 lbs per attached worker?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Are ropes protected from sharp edges and abrasive surfaces?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Are knots tied correctly and securely, with appropriate safety margins?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Is there a rescue plan in place in case of a fall or other emergency?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____

☐ Are ground personnel trained in proper rigging techniques and communication signals? ☐ Pass ☐ Fail ☐ N/A Notes: _____

☐ Are ropes retired according to manufacturer's recommendations or after any incident that may have compromised their integrity? ☐ Pass ☐ Fail ☐ N/A Notes: _____

Findings

#	Item	Location	Severity	Action required
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				

Signature

Inspector signature _____

Name _____

Date _____