



**Public Employers Who Designate
Employees To Engage In Tree
Care Operations, Tree Trimming
And Tree Removal**



Public Employee Safety & Health Bulletin #33
ATTENTION: All Public Employers
June 2020

This Safety Alert is being communicated in response to the potential for injuries or death to occur when employees are engaged in **tree care and tree removal operations and related activities.**

95 WORKERS DIED IN NEW JERSEY during tree removal or trimming activities between 1990 and 2015; three during storm cleanup. Many more have been seriously injured. The factors surrounding the fatalities showed that each one could have been prevented if proper work practices had been followed.

- In order to prevent serious injury or death related to tree trimming and tree removal operations, employers are required to comply with the provisions of the New Jersey Public Employees' Occupational Safety and Health (PEOSH) Act, specifically; 34:6A-33 *Every employer shall:*
a. Provide each of his employees with employment and a place of employment which are free from recognized hazards which may cause serious injury, physical harm or death to his employees;
- Recent accident and fatality investigations conducted by the Office of Public Employees' Occupational Safety and Health, (OPEOSH) revealed that many public employers who engage in tree care operations such as tree trimming and tree removal are in violation of the requirements as specified under the PEOSH Act.
- 29CFR OSHA 1910.132 General Requirements for Hazard Assessment & Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Selection.
- The American National Standard for Arboricultural Operations - Safety Requirements, also known as the (ANSI) Z133 consensus standard.

Before beginning any tree care operation, employers shall:

- Assess the work site for hazards. Determine the proper personal protective equipment (PPE) required.
- Have a qualified arborist survey the worksite and identify the types of trees involved and possible hazards related to tree structure.
- Determine if rigging is necessary and, if so, that workers are trained in the use of equipment and can use it safely.
- Determine if workers will need to climb or use aerial lifts. Comply with the appropriate requirements.

SAFE WORK PRACTICES SAVE LIVES

For more information:

**NJ Department of Labor & Workforce Development
Office of Public Employees' Occupational Safety & Health
<http://nj.gov/labor/PEOSH/enforcement>
(800) 624-1644**