

Tree Climbing For Pruning Risk Assessment

Business Name:	ABN:	
Business Address:		
Contact Person:	Phone:	Email:

THIS RISK ASSESSMENT IS APPROVED BY THE PCBU ON THE PROJECT

Under the Work Health and Safety Regulation (WHS Regulation), a person conducting a business or undertaking (PCBU) is required to ensure that a RISK ASSESSMENT is prepared before the proposed work starts.

Full Name:		
Signature:	Title:	Date:

CLIENT OR PRINCIPAL CONTRACTOR DETAILS

Client:	SCOPE OF WORKS
Project Name:	
Project Address:	
Project Manager:	
Contact Phone:	
Date Risk Assessment supplied to Project Manager:	

RISK MATRIX									
LIKELIHOOD	INSIGNIFICANT	MINOR	MODERATE	MAJOR	CATASTROPHIC	SCORE	ACTION	HIERARCHY OF CONTROLS	
ALMOST CERTAIN	3 HIGH	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE			Elimination Remove the hazard.	
LIKELY	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE	4A ACUTE	DO NOT PROCEED	Substitution Replace the hazard.	
POSSIBLE	1 LOW	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE	3H HIGH	Review before work starts.	Isolation Isolate People from the hazard	
UNLIKELY	1 LOW	1 LOW	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	2M MODERATE	Ensure control measures in place.	Engineering Isolate the hazard	
RARE	1 LOW	1 LOW	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	3 HIGH	1L LOW	Monitor and keep records.	Administrative Change	
								PPE	

Risk Rating & Required Action:

4A	Stop work. The risk is intolerable. Eliminate the hazard or redesign the activity before proceeding. A Safe Work Method Statement (SWMS) or higher-level authorisation is required.
3H	Review and approve additional controls before task starts. Senior supervisor sign-off needed.
2M	Ensure all nominated controls are in place and effective. Proceed with caution; monitor conditions.
1L	Proceed, following standard operating procedures. Monitor and keep records.

Consequence Scale:

Consequence	People (injury/illness)	Project / Assets	Compliance / Reputation
Catastrophic	Fatality or permanent total disability	project shutdown	Significant regulator intervention; criminal prosecution
Major	Serious injury/illness (hospital > 5 days)	critical delay	Improvement notice; major media coverage
Moderate	Medical-treatment injury; lost-time > 1 day	moderate delay	Minor breach; adverse client comment
Minor	First-aid only, no lost time	negligible delay	Isolated non-conformance
Insignificant	No injury	no schedule impact	Deviation caught and corrected on site

Notes on Hierarchy of Controls:

Remember to apply controls in the preferred order shown by the coloured pyramid:

1. **Eliminate**
2. Substitute
3. Isolate
4. Engineering
5. Administrative
6. PPE

Always document **why** a lower-order control is accepted if elimination or substitution is not reasonably practicable.

aligned with Safe Work Australia's Managing the risk of fatigue at work (2023) and ISO 45001:2018 clauses 6–8.

JOB STEP	POTENTIAL HAZARDS	IR	CONTROL MEASURES	RR
SPECIFIC WORK STEPS	HAZARDS THAT MAY ARISE	INITIAL RISK	SPECIFIC MEASURES TO BE PUT IN PLACE TO ELIMINATE OR CONTROL THE RISKS	RESIDUAL RISK
1. Preparation	Inadequate knowledge of tree species, Lack of suitable equipment	3H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct a pre-work briefing covering tree species - Ensure all equipment is checked for condition - Conduct a site inspection for hazards - Assign roles and responsibilities to team members - Verify qualifications and training of all personnel - Review weather conditions and modify plans as necessary - Have a first aid kit available and a trained first-aiders on site - Document procedures to be followed - Limit access to the work area for unauthorized personnel - Confirm communication devices are operational and have backup options 	2M
2. Set Up Site	Traffic from nearby roads, Falling branches	4H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use signage to alert public of work being done - Install barriers to redirect traffic if needed - Establish a safe perimeter around the work area - Utilize spotters to guide traffic and public as necessary - Remove all potential trip hazards from the area - Ensure all personnel wear high-visibility clothing - Set up a designated dressing and tool storage area - Conduct a final check of equipment placement - Identify an evacuation route and assembly point - Brief all team members on site-specific risks 	3H
3. Climbing Preparedness	Improper use of personal protective equipment, Lack of climbing experience	4A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct a tool box talk to review climbing procedure - Ensure that all climbers have appropriate certifications - Verify PPE is fitted correctly and in good condition - Check harnesses and carabiners for wear or damage - Double check that all ropes and knots are well secured - Use buddy checks to confirm safety gear is applied properly - Ensure team members remain in visual contact - Conduct a practice climb or drill for familiarity 	2M

Incident Description		Investigation Findings	Corrective Actions
Incident 1: Power line failure	4A	<p>Continuous assessment by supervisor during operations</p> <p>Incident 1: Power line failure</p> <p>Investigation Findings: The power line failure was caused by a combination of factors, including aging infrastructure and adverse weather conditions. The investigation identified several key areas for improvement, including the need for more frequent inspections and the implementation of a more robust monitoring system.</p>	<p>Continuous assessment by supervisor during operations</p> <p>Corrective Actions: The following actions were taken to address the identified issues: 1. Replacement of aging power lines. 2. Implementation of a real-time monitoring system. 3. Increased frequency of inspections. 4. Training of personnel on emergency procedures.</p>
Incident 2: Equipment failure	3H	<p>Incident 2: Equipment failure</p> <p>Investigation Findings: The equipment failure was caused by a combination of factors, including poor maintenance and operator error. The investigation identified several key areas for improvement, including the need for more frequent maintenance and the implementation of a more robust training program.</p>	<p>Corrective Actions: The following actions were taken to address the identified issues: 1. Increased frequency of maintenance. 2. Implementation of a more robust training program. 3. Replacement of worn-out equipment. 4. Implementation of a more robust safety protocol.</p>

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7. Pack Up and Clean	Injury due to lifting, Loose debris	2M		1L
8. Review and Documentation	Data loss, Inaccuracy	2M		1L
9. Follow-Up Monitoring	Lack of feedback, Overlooked hazards	2M		1L

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10. Audit and Continuous Improvement	Non-compliance with procedures, Ineffectiveness of controls	2M		1L
11. Communication of Lessons Learned	Ineffective dissemination, Inconsistent understanding	2M		1L
12. Emergency Preparedness	Inadequate emergency response, Unavailability of first aider	4A		2M

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13. Weather Monitoring	Sudden weather changes, Reduced visibility	3H		2M
14. Contractor Management	Miscommunication, Non-compliance by contractors	3H		2M
15. Mental Health Considerations	Stress, Fatigue	3H		1L

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SAMPLE

EMERGENCY RESPONSE – CALL 000 FOR EMERGENCIES

Ensure to have an Emergency Management Plan in place as well as adequate numbers of trained first aid staff with easy access to fully stocked first aid kits, rescue equipment, material safety data sheets, adequate access to emergency communication equipment and fire-fighting equipment suitable for all classes of fire and ignition sources.

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCES

RELEVANT LEGISLATION AND CODES OF PRACTICE. DELETE THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCES IF ANY STATE THAT ARE NOT APPLICABLE

Queensland & Australian Capital Territory

Work Health and Safety Act 2011

Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011

Legislation QLD: <https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/work-health-and-safety-laws>

Codes of Practice QLD: <https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice>

Legislation ACT: <https://www.worksafe.act.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/acts-and-regulations>

Codes of Practice ACT: <https://www.worksafe.act.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice>

New South Wales

Work Health and Safety Act 2011

Work Health and Safety Regulations 2017

Legislation NSW: <https://www.safework.nsw.gov.au/legal-obligations/legislation>

Codes of Practice NSW: <https://www.safework.nsw.gov.au/resource-library/list-codes-of-practice>

Northern Territory

Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2011

Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Regulations 2011

Legislation NT: <https://worksafe.nt.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/workplace-safety-laws>

Codes of Practice NT: <https://worksafe.nt.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice>

South Australia

Work Health and Safety Act 2012 (SA)

Work Health and Safety Regulations 2012 (SA)

Legislation for SA: <https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/resources/legislation>

Codes of Practice for SA: <https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/workplaces/codes-of-practice#COPs>

Tasmania

Work Health and Safety Act 2012

Work Health and Safety (Transitional and Consequential Provisions) Act 2012

Work Health and Safety Regulations 2012

Work Health and Safety (Transitional) Regulations 2012

Legislation for TAS: <https://worksafe.tas.gov.au/topics/laws-and-compliance/acts-and-regulations>

Codes of Practice for TAS: <https://worksafe.tas.gov.au/topics/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice>

Details of permits, licenses or access required by regulatory bodies (add or delete as required):

- Permits from local council
- Authorisation to commence work
- Any required documents.

Victoria

Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004

Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2017

Legislation VIC: <https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/occupational-health-and-safety-act-and-regulations>

Codes of Practice VIC: <https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/compliance-codes-and-codes-practice>

Western Australia

Work Health and Safety Act 2020

Work Health and Safety Regulations 2022

Legislation Western Australia: <https://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/worksafe/legislation>

Codes of Practice WA: <https://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/worksafe/codes-practice>

Safe Work Australia Links

Law and Regulation (All States): <https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/law-and-regulation>

Model Codes of Practice: <https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/resources-publications/model-codes-of-practice>

Model Codes of Practice

- Managing noise and preventing hearing loss at work
- Confined spaces
- Labelling of workplace hazardous chemicals
- Managing risks of hazardous chemicals in the workplace
- Welding processes
- First aid in the workplace
- Managing the risk of falls at workplaces
- Hazardous manual tasks
- Managing the risk of falls in housing construction
- Managing electrical risks in the workplace
- Demolition work
- Excavation work
- Work health and safety consultation, cooperation and coordination
- Managing the work environment and facilities
- How to manage work health and safety risks
- Managing risks of plant in the workplace
- Construction work