



TREE CUTTER INJURY WHILE DISMANTLING A TREE

OVERVIEW

On Monday 1st March, an operative sustained fractures to his pelvis during a tree dismantling procedure. A large limb was being lowered when it made contact with one of the operatives working on the ground.



WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

Without prejudice to any subsequent investigation,

- Ensure robust method statements are in place to undertake work safely.
- Ensure POWA's are conducted correctly and a PiCOS is appointed.
- Ensure the working party fully understand the procedures that are taking place and the role that they are taking in the procedure.
- Drop/fall zones are established and maintained.
- Communication between members of a team on site are structured, controlled and maintained at all times.
- Emergency arrangements are accurate and recorded on the POWA.

DETAIL

Part of the trunk of a decayed tree was being cut and lowered in a controlled manner using ropes and rigging. The section being lowered was swung to avoid it being lowered on to a hedge, as it landed on the ground, the operative controlling one of the ropes was pulled towards the trunk and made contact with it, causing the injury.

The emergency services were called and the operative was airlifted to hospital.

An investigation into the incident has been initiated and as further details are made available, they will be communicated.

It is the responsibility of line management to ensure all appropriate employees are issued with this document and to check their understanding of its content. This document will be subject to compliance audits within 14 days from the date of issue.
