**Objective: Identify the risks in tree pruning, trimming, and felling and how to avoid them.**

**Trainer’s Note**

Pruning, trimming, and felling trees all involve serious hazards. For this module:

• Review the information below on hazards and safety practices in pruning, trimming,   
 and felling trees.

• Ask workers to give examples of risks in tree pruning, trimming, and felling.

• Review the important points.

• Have workers take the True/False test to check their learning.

**Background**

Pruning, trimming, and felling trees are risky because:

* Workers can fall.
* Workers can come into contact with overhead power lines.
* Workers are using loud and dangerous tools like chain saws.
* Falling limbs or trees can strike workers or by-standers on the ground.

Many hazards involved in pruning, trimming, and felling are covered in detail in other Tailgate Safety Training modules.

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| **Hazard** | **Tailgate Safety Training Module** |
| Falling | *Preventing Falls From Trees*  *Tree Pruning and Ladder Safety*  *Bucket Trucks and Aerial Lifts* |
| Electrocution | *Overhead Electrical Hazards* |
| Being cut by chain saws or trimmers | *Chain Saw Safety* |
| Loud, continued noise from equipment like chain saws | *Protecting Against Noise* |
| Being struck by falling branches or trees | *Struck-By Accidents*  *Protecting the Head* |

Tree climbing using rope systems can be more risky than working from a bucket truck or aerial lift due to:

* Unstable work position.
* Weakness of ropes to damage from equipment such as chain saws.
* Physical fatigue from using ropes.

**General Safety Tips for Tree Pruning, Trimming, and Felling**

* **Check for overhead power lines!**
* Inform co-workers and neighbors in the vicinity.
* If a ladder is used, tie it to the tree and use a ladder to have access above the branch.
* Use a fall-arrest harness attached to a secure part of the tree.
* Use warning signs around the work site to prevent public access.
* Use control lines on trees, to direct their fall in the intended direction.
* When felling, keep a distance of at least twice the length of the tree between the tree and people.
* Have a co-worker assist in controlling movement of falling branches.
* Stay at least 10 feet away from power lines.
* Use an observer to watch out for power lines.
* Safety observer should wear protective clothing.
* All workers and observers should wear hard hat, goggles, hearing protection, fluorescent vest, cut-resistant trousers, and safety boots.

**Review These Important Points**

* Use warning signs and barricades around the work site to prevent public access.
* Wear hard hat, goggles, hearing protection, fluorescent vest, cut-resistant trousers, and safety boots.
* Have a co-worker assist in controlling movement of falling branches.
* Use an observer to watch out for power lines.

**Verbal Quiz**

1. Hazards in tree pruning, trimming, and felling are electrocution, falling, noise, **T F**  
 and being struck.

2. For your safety, use a fall-arrest harness attached to a secure part of the tree. **T F**

3. Use control lines on trees to direct their fall in the intended direction. **T F**

4. When felling, keep a distance of at least half of the length of the tree between **T F**  
 the tree and people.

5. Safety observers do not need to wear protective clothing. **T F**

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| Answer Key | |
| 1 | T |
| 2 | T |
| 3 | T |
| 4 | F |
| 5 | F |