***Note:*** *The following policy and work practices are in writing as a* ***Best Practice****. Please modify or delete content as deemed necessary.*

**Arboriculture/Tree Trimming Policy**

**(Reference 29 CFR 1910.132, 1910.151 and 1910.266)**

**Work Practices**

* Limit access/set up controlled access zones.
* Inspect trees and limbs for structural weakness before climbing or cutting.
* Use safe climbing procedures such as breaking or cutting off dead limbs while climbing, placing hands and feet on separate limbs, and limiting shinning distance to 15 feet.
* Use safe work procedures to prevent inadvertent cutting of climbing ropes, lanyards, and safety belts or straps.
* Use appropriate personal protective equipment such as safety glasses, gloves, hearing protection and chaps.

**Assume that All Power Lines Are Energized**

* Contact the utility company to discuss de-energizing and grounding or shielding of power lines.
* All tree trimming or removal work within ten feet of a power line must be done by trained and experienced line-clearance tree trimmers. A second tree trimmer is required within normal voice communication range.
* Line-clearance tree trimmers must be aware of and maintain the proper minimum approach distances when working around energized power lines.
* Use extreme caution when moving ladders and equipment around downed trees and power lines.

**First Aid and CPR**

* Trained employees where medical services are not readily available.
* Pre-job briefing on how to get a hold of emergency services and their location to the site.
* Check daily first aid kits for adequate supplies.

**Stay Alert at All Times**

* Do not trim trees in dangerous weather conditions.
* Perform a hazard assessment of the work area before starting work.
* Eliminate or minimize exposure to hazards at the tree and in the surrounding area.
* Operators of chainsaws and other equipment should be trained and the equipment properly maintained.
* Use personal protective equipment such as gloves, safety glasses, hard hats, hearing protection, etc., recommended in the equipment manufacturer’s operating manual.
* Determine the tree’s felling direction. Address forward lean, back lean, and/or side lean issues.
* Determine the proper amount of hinge wood to safely guide the tree’s fall. Provide a retreat path to a safe location.
* Inspect tree limbs for strength and stability before climbing. Tree trimmers working aloft must use appropriate fall protection.
* Do not climb with tools in your hands.
* If broken trees are under pressure, determine the direction of the pressure and make small cuts to release it.
* Use extreme care when felling a tree that has not fallen completely to the ground and is lodged against another tree.
* Never turn your back on a falling tree.
* Be alert and avoid objects thrown back by a tree as it falls.
* Only use tree felling equipment for felling trees. Equipment not designed for such use can be dangerous without the adequate protective features, such as falling object protective structures (FOPS).