

Title	Climb difficult trees, branch walk and undertake aerial rescue above 15 metres in arboriculture situations		
Level	4	Credits	10

Purpose	People credited with this unit standard are able to: use a throw ball and line to set climbing lines above 10 metres; use climbing lines and harness to ascend and descend mature trees; install and use false crotches; set climbing lines for branch walking; branch walk; climb difficult trees with trunks or stems over 10 metres; undertake an aerial rescue above 15 metres in an arboriculture situation; and demonstrate knowledge of medical emergencies a tree climber could encounter and first aid response.
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Classification	Horticulture > Arboriculture
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Prerequisite	Unit 31185, <i>Demonstrate knowledge of climbing equipment, climb and undertake one-person aerial rescue</i> or demonstrate equivalent knowledge and skills.
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Available grade	Achieved
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Guidance Information

- 1 Legislation and references relevant to this unit standard includes but is not limited to:
 - Health and Safety at Work Act 2015;
 - Resource Management Act 1991;
 - BS 3998:2010, *Tree work. Recommendations*, available from www.britishstandard.org.uk;
 - ANSI A300, *Standards for Tree Care Operations* (Parts 1 – 7) and their subsequent amendments, available from www.isa-arbor.com;
 - WorkSafe New Zealand, *Approved Code of Practice Safety and Health in Arboriculture* (2012), available from www.worksafe.govt.nz/worksafe;
 - WorkSafe New Zealand, *Approved Code of Practice for Safety and Health in Tree Work Part 2: Maintenance of trees around power lines* (1996), available from www.worksafe.govt.nz/worksafe;
 - New Zealand Arboricultural Association Inc. (NZ Arb), *Best Practice Guide (BPG) for Safety Requirements in New Zealand Arboricultural Operations* (2017), available from www.nzarb.org.nz;
 and any subsequent amendments.

2 Definitions

Aerial rescue – systems or procedures for retrieving an incapacitated arborist using skill appropriate methodologies.

Difficult trees – trees that are heavily branched, leaning, and/or with irregular trunks.

Workplace procedures – the policies and procedures on safety and operation set down by the employer or organisation, which should reflect industry best practice, the BPG, equipment manufacturer's requirements, and current legislation.

3 Candidates are required to hold a current first aid certificate before undertaking aerial rescue.

4 For the purposes of assessment:

- evidence must be presented in accordance with workplace procedures.

Outcomes and performance criteria

Outcome 1

Use a throw ball and line to set climbing lines above 10 metres.

Performance criteria

- 1.1 Select throw ball equipment and identify and tie connecting knots.
- 1.2 Identify suitable roping points above 10 metres.
- 1.3 Use throw ball equipment to set climbing lines over identified roping points.

Outcome 2

Use climbing lines and harness to ascend and descend mature trees.

Performance criteria

- 2.1 Select safest and most suitable path for an ascent.
- 2.2 Set climbing lines into trees and over a suitable branch ready to commence the climb.
- 2.3 Use climbing lines, lanyard, and harness to ascend trees.
- 2.4 Select and use a secure anchor point to descend.

Outcome 3

Install and use false crotches.

Range may include but is not limited to – double ringed cambium savers.

Performance criteria

- 3.1 Install and use false crotches from within the tree.
- 3.2 Install and use false crotches above ten metres from the ground using a throw line.

Outcome 4

Set climbing lines for branch walking.

Performance criteria

- 4.1 Select roping points which provide safe, unobstructed rope.
- 4.2 Set climbing lines into selected roping points.

Range single roping point, re-direct points, double tie-in system.

Outcome 5

Branch walk.

Range branches over 10 metres above ground.

Performance criteria

- 5.1 Perform branch walk safely.
- 5.2 Identify and use secondary roping or re-direction points so that suitable anchors can be created within the tree for safe working positions.

Outcome 6

Climb difficult trees with trunks or stems over 10 metres.

Range heavily branched, leaning, irregular trunks.

Performance criteria

- 6.1 Select the safest and most suitable path.
- 6.2 Climb difficult stems or trunks.
- 6.3 Maintain communication with the groundperson at all times.

Outcome 7

Undertake an aerial rescue above 15 metres in an arboriculture situation.

Range aerial rescue may be simulated.

Performance criteria

- 7.1 Prepare the worksite for an aerial rescue emergency situation and identify the requirements for the particular climbing system in use.
- 7.2 Conduct a rescue of an injured climber from the tree canopy using available climbing equipment and starting and finishing on the ground.
- 7.3 Conduct a counterbalance and pick off rescue of an injured climber from the tree canopy using available climbing equipment and starting and finishing on the ground.

Outcome 8

Demonstrate knowledge of medical emergencies a tree climber could encounter and first aid response.

Range evidence of at least three is required.

Performance criteria

- 8.1 Identify medical emergencies a tree climber could encounter while working in a tree canopy.
- 8.2 Describe the first aid response to medical emergencies.

Planned review date	31 December 2025
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Status information and last date for assessment for superseded versions

Process	Version	Date	Last Date for Assessment
Registration	1	28 January 1995	31 December 2019
Review	2	23 November 1999	31 December 2019
Revision	3	13 February 2002	31 December 2019
Revision	4	24 February 2006	31 December 2019
Review	5	11 December 2009	31 December 2019
Review	6	26 April 2018	31 December 2024
Review	7	25 March 2021	N/A
Revision	8	27 January 2022	N/A

Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR) reference	0032
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This CMR can be accessed at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/search/index.do>.

Comments on this unit standard

Please contact Muka Tangata - People, Food and Fibre Workforce Development Council qualifications@mukatangata.nz if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.