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

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| 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>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

- 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.
- 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.

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| 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 2023 |
| Review | 7 | 25 March 2021 | N/A |

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| 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 the Primary ITO standards@primaryito.ac.nz if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.