

Safety Procedures For Tree Felling On Rural Land Development Projects

Undertaking a land development project on rural land requires an extensive plan and line of safety procedures in order to complete the project successfully and without any risk to those who are on the job site. Unfortunately, those who aren't professionals in the industry, tend to take on the risk of tree felling themselves in order to get ahead. The problem with this is that it can be extremely dangerous. This expert guide will give you the safety procedures for tree felling that you need to consider for any rural land development.

Tree Felling Safety Procedures

1. Use Proper Safety Equipment

Before any form of tree felling is to take place, proper safety equipment must be used to help minimise the risk of injury. In accordance with safety regulations, the areas of the body that must be covered include the head, ears, face, legs, and feet before a chainsaw is to be used. For those preparing to take down a tree you must be wearing:



- A face shield
- A hard hat or safety helmet
- Heavy duty and high grip gloves
- Thick material clothing to reduce debris skin damage from chainsaw throw offs.
- Safety goggles or safety glasses
- Ear plugs or ear muffs
- High sole grip work boots

Wearing the proper safety equipment is important to minimise skin damage when the chainsaw is in use. Never operate a chainsaw without wearing the appropriate clothing.

2. Assess The Area For Hazards

Before the felling of trees, it's important to check and assess the surrounding areas for hazards. Some hazards include:

- Powerlines
- Beds of water that pose a drowning risk
- Mud around the tree that would cause you to become stuck if you had to run fast.

- Tripping hazards
- Objects like cars or homes that are in the proximity of the falling distance of the tree.
- Any rotten branches or wood that may fall from the tree while cutting.

Hazards can play a big role in whether an injury occurs on a tree felling site. This is why it's important to assess the area fully before you complete the job.

3. Assess The Area For Animals

On rural land developments, there's generally different animals about which could be affected by the falling of trees. It's important to remove any animal from nearby paddocks which may be at risk of the tree falling. It's also advisable to take precaution and check the tree first to make sure any animals that have taken residence in the tree are removed prior to the cutting.

4. Don't Work In Unsafe Weather

Never cut a large tree down when the weather changes. Snow, hail, rain or wind especially can cause the tree to fall in a different way. This can land you right in the path of the falling tree. If bad weather persists, it's important to postpone the tree cutting and reschedule it for another day.

5. Estimate The Felling Zone

Before bringing down the tree it's important to estimate the felling zone. This enables for you to not only create a safe distance for other workers on the site, but it also helps you to determine whether you need to move any objects out of the way.

6. Dropping The Tree

When you need to direct the tree to a specific area, you will need to cut a notch in the tree and place a wedge to help direct it to the right felling zone. You will also need to consider tying ropes to the tree in order to help guide it to the ground in a safer manner. Before cutting notify those around that the cutting will begin and have everyone move back to a safe distance.



When cutting the tree down always keep an eye on the movement of the tree at all times to help you move in time if something goes wrong.

Conclusion

Tree felling should be completed by professionals with years of experience. If you decide to complete the job yourself however, you take the risks into your own hands. This is why you

need to take all the safety precautions first before you begin your cutting. Are you going to hire a professional company to take down your trees?