

AERIAL LIFT OPERATOR - MUNICIPAL

JOB DESCRIPTION

A municipal aerial lift operator position participates in all aspects of tree work for the community. Duties primarily include street or park tree pruning and removal. In some situations, work duties can also include tree planting, hazard tree assessment, and insect and disease control. Work may also include other landscape and non-arboricultural duties.

TYPICAL BACKGROUND

Individuals becoming aerial lift operators have most likely worked in the industry in another capacity such as groundworkers or climbers.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Aerial lift operators must be in good physical condition and have a strong interest and attitude to work outdoors. A Commercial Drivers License (CDL) will be required. A high school diploma is preferred.



EDUCATION/TRAINING NEEDS

- General work site safety and hazard recognition
- Aerial lift operation training
- Vehicle safety, safe operation, and driving
- Selection and use of appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Understanding work orders and plans
- Job briefings
- Emergency procedures
- Electrical hazards training
- Chipper use and safety
- Basic knots and rope use
- Basic knots and rope operation for rigging
- Proper equipment use and maintenance
- Advanced chain saw use and felling techniques
- Pruning principles and techniques
- Cabling and bracing (and lightning protection)
- Tree identification and basic tree biology
- Beginning diagnostic training

EDUCATION TRAINING MATERIALS

- NAA/ISA Video Training Series and Workbook: *Basic Training for Ground Operations in Tree Care*
- ISA ArborMaster Video Series and Workbook: *Chain Saw Use and Safety*
- NAA Video: *Back Injury Prevention*
- ISA ArborMaster Video Series and Book: *The Art and Science of Practical Rigging*
- ANSI Z133.1 Safety Standards
- ANSI A300 Pruning
- ANSI A300 Cabling and Bracing
- NAA Video set: *Rigging for Removal*
- NAA Video: *Ropes, Knots, and Climbing*
- NAA Tailgate Safety Program
- Electrical Hazards Awareness Program
- Best Management Practice: Pruning
- Best Management Practice: Tree Support Systems
- ISA Arborists' Certification Study Guide

CERTIFICATIONS/LICENSES

ISA Certified Arborist recommended; Commercial Drivers License (CDL) will most likely be required. State Pesticide Applicator License is often required.

TYPICAL FUTURE CAREER PATHS

Municipal aerial lift operators usually progress to positions of foreman or supervisor. Some workers may switch to other aspects of tree care such as commercial or utility operations.