

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

TITLE:	Tree Climber/Maintenance Worker I	GRADE: L06	CODE: 5250
SERIES:	Building and Grounds Maintenance	DATE: 6/3/03	
		FLSA: Non-Exempt	
		EEOC: Service/Maintenance	

Class Definition

Under general supervision, performs skilled, hazardous tree maintenance work, involving moderate responsibility, complexity and variety. Provides coordination and on-site direction over ground crew. Inspects for and identifies hazard trees and limbs. Climbs trees to perform tree maintenance work. Removes hazard, diseased, dead and unwanted trees and tree limbs from woods, parks, and other areas owned by the Commission. Performs tree maintenance on the ground when tree climbing is not required. May be asked to provide 24 hour on-call service to respond to hazard tree emergencies.

Work is characterized by the performance of heavy physical labor, hazardous tasks, and exposure to considerable heights. Extensive teamwork is necessary in order to coordinate crew duties and functions. Performs other duties as assigned.

Examples of Important Duties

1. Climbs trees in accordance with safety requirements (e.g. American National Standards Institute (ANSI)) using saddle, ropes, climbing hooks, safety lanyards and other specialized safety equipment.
2. Removes or lowers trees and limbs utilizing ropes, pulleys, lowering devices, and other specialized equipment. Operates chain saw and other specialized equipment in accordance with approved standards to fell and trim unwanted, diseased, hazardous or dead trees from ground level.
3. Directs activities of ground crew (e.g. equipment operators, park/general maintenance workers). Utilizes mechanical devices and manual labor to assist with site cleanup and debris removal.
4. Clears fallen trees and brush debris from roads, trails, creeks, bike paths, and buildings. Utilizes manual and motorized tools for cleanup and removal.
5. Inspects trees for hazards, safety, and health in accordance to guidelines. Identifies and applies corrective course of action. Mixes and applies soil fertilizers and amendments. Performs soil aeration. Attaches braces and wires to support trees with weak structural systems. Installs and inspects lightning protection, bracing and cabling supports, in accordance with industry standards.
6. Maintains safety compliance: Responsible for inspecting equipment before each climb, and ensures equipment is properly secured and accounted for before leaving work site. Ensures hardhat, ear and eye protection, leg chaps, and other appropriate gear is worn when equipment is operated and/or materials moved. Maintains work records, complies with legal reporting requirements.

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Examples of Important Duties (cont.)

7. Cleans and maintains tools and machinery. Makes necessary adjustments and repairs. Conducts routine preventive maintenance on assigned equipment (e.g., chain saws, chipping machine). May make recommendations regarding equipment purchasing.
8. Drives truck, often with trailer, to carry crew and equipment to work sites. Provides routine maintenance. Takes vehicles and equipment to garage for major maintenance and repairs.
9. May be required to perform other park maintenance duties as assigned.

Important Worker Characteristics

Knowledge of: (1) Commission organization, policies, and procedures*; (2) standards (e.g. OSHA, MOSH, and ANSI) and specialized equipment used in tree trimming and removal; (3) first aid and CPR; * (4) tree maintenance techniques and related safety practices; and (5) local tree species and related diseases.

Skill in operation of: chain saw, chipping machine, hand tools, motor vehicles, two-way radio, and other tree service equipment.

Ability to: (1) follow directions; (2) understand a system of procedures; (3) read routine reports and instructions; (4) write routine reports; (5) lift up to 50 pounds; and (6) work consistently at high elevations.

*Developed primarily after employment in this job class.

Minimum Qualifications

1. High school diploma or GED, and
2. One year of tree maintenance experience, including six months of tree climbing experience; or
3. An equivalent combination of education and experience.
4. Possession of a Valid Driver's License.
5. Contingent upon area of assignment, some positions in this class may require a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) with appropriate endorsements upon appointment, or during the probationary period.
6. Successfully pass a Commission medical examination.

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Working Conditions

Primarily works outdoors. Requires exposure to adverse weather conditions, noise, vibration, dust, and hazardous materials while working at considerable heights. Hazardous conditions exist due to exposure to power tools, power lines, wild animals, stinging insects, poison ivy, oak or sumac, and dead and dangerous trees and limbs. May be required to be on on-call 24 hours in the event of an emergency. Work requires constant bending, lifting, and carrying of heavy objects of up to 50 pounds.