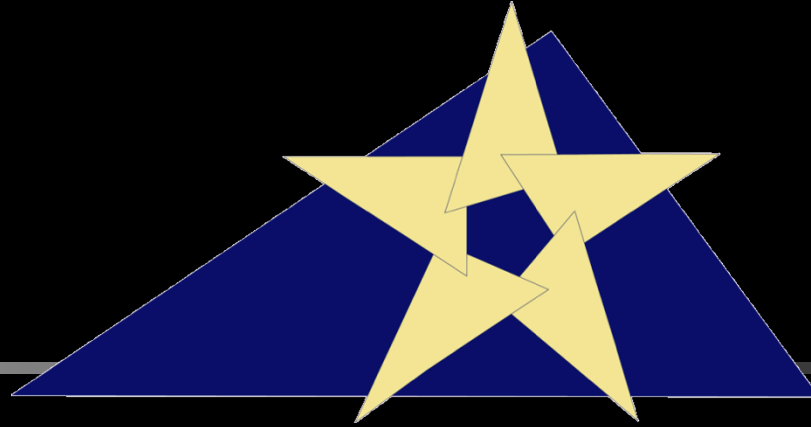


VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY



Tree Trimming Operations 16 VAC 25-73

TREE TRIMMING OPERATIONS

16VAC25-73

- The final Tree Trimming Operations regulation is the result of a cooperative effort between the Department of Labor and Industry, the **tree care industry** and other government agencies to enhance safety protections for employees and address the unique concerns and hazards of tree care operations.
- Discussions about a possible regulation started back in 2000 with the then National Arborists Association, and carried on with the **Tree Care Industry Association (TCIA)** in 2004. Adoption by the tree care industry of the 2006 ANSI Z-133.1 Tree Care Operations standard was the key development in initiating the regulatory adoption process.

- Picture courtesy of TCIA.org



TREE TRIMMING OPERATIONS

16VAC25-73

- From 1993 through 2010, 59 tree trimmers were killed in Virginia, an average of three fatal accidents per year (7% of VOSH fatalities). Eight (8) tree trimmers alone were killed in 2006 (another fifteen (15) were killed between 2007 and 2010).
- Tree Trimming Fatalities:

<u>Number</u>	<u>Hazard</u>
33	Tree trimming
15	Power lines
4	Struck by vehicle
3	Chipper
3	Site clearance
1	Aerial lift

TREE TRIMMING OPERATIONS

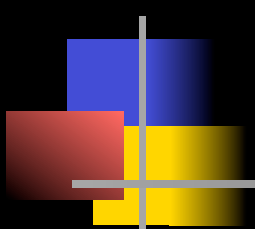
16VAC25-73

- Scope of the regulation.
 - 16VAC25-73-10.C. This regulation does not apply to:
 - Non arboricultural landscaping operations.
 - Line-clearance tree trimming activities as defined in 16VAC25-73-20. Such activities are covered by 16VAC25-90-1910.269.
 - Logging operations covered by 16VAC25-90-1910.266.



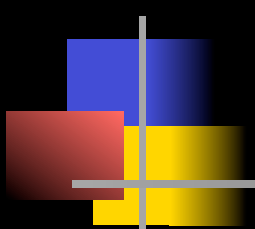
TREE TRIMMING OPERATIONS

16VAC25-73

- 
- Tree Trimming or Logging Regulation?
 - Generally, tree trimming activities include:
 - Work being performed in residential neighborhoods and commercial areas, not in a forest.
 - Teams of workers are being used in directional felling of trees (e.g., with the use of ropes or other directional felling techniques).
 - Workers are “piecing out” trees or cutting trees in sections (loggers usually do not piece out trees)

TREE TRIMMING OPERATIONS

16VAC25-73

- 
- Scope of the regulation (continued).
 - 16VAC25-73-10.C. This regulation does not apply to:
 - Tree removal activities where the primary objective is land clearing in preparation for construction, real estate development, rights-of-way for new utility installations or other related activities, unless directly supervised by a qualified arborist or qualified line-clearance arborist. Such activities are covered by 16VAC25-90-1910.266.

TREE TRIMMING OPERATIONS

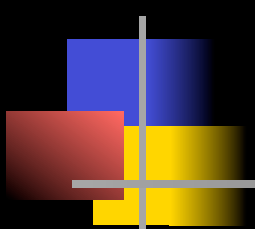
16VAC25-73

Definitions, 16VAC25-73-20 (continued).

- "Qualified arborist" means an individual who, through related training and on-the-job experience, is familiar with the equipment and hazards involved in arboricultural operations and who has demonstrated ability in the performance of the special techniques involved.
- "Qualified arborist trainee" means an individual undergoing on-the-job training under the direct supervision of a qualified arborist. In the course of such training, the trainee becomes familiar with the hazards and equipment involved in arboricultural operations and demonstrates ability in the performance of the special techniques involved.

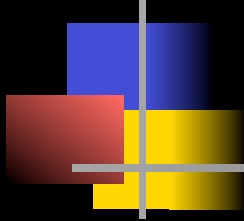
TREE TRIMMING OPERATIONS

16VAC25-73

- 
- General Safety Requirements, 16VAC25-73-40.
 - A. General.
 - 1. Machinery, vehicles, tools, materials and equipment shall conform to the requirements of this regulation. 16VAC25-60-120 is hereby incorporated by reference.
 - 2. Employers shall instruct their employees in the proper use, inspection, and maintenance of tools and equipment, including ropes and lines, and shall require that appropriate working practices be followed.
 - 3. A qualified arborist shall determine whether direct supervision is needed on a jobsite.
 - 4. A job briefing shall be performed by the qualified arborist in charge before the start of each job. The briefing shall be communicated to all affected workers. An employee working alone need not conduct a job briefing. However, the employer shall ensure that the tasks are being performed as if a briefing were required.

TREE TRIMMING OPERATIONS

16VAC25-73

- 
- General Safety Requirements, 16VAC25-73-40.
 - C. Emergency procedures and readiness.
 - 1. Emergency phone numbers shall be available when and where arboricultural operations are being carried out. Arborists and other workers shall be instructed as to the specific location of such information.
 - 2. A first-aid kit, adequately stocked and maintained in accordance with 16VAC25-90-1910.151, shall be provided by the employer, when and where arboricultural operations are being carried out. Arborists and other workers shall be instructed in its use and specific location.
 - 5. First-aid training shall be provided in accordance with 16VAC25-90-1910.151.

TREE TRIMMING OPERATIONS

16VAC25-73

- General Safety Requirements, 16VAC25-73-40.
 - C. Emergency procedures and readiness.
 - 4. Employees who may be faced with a rescue decision shall receive training in emergency response and rescue procedures appropriate and applicable to the work to be performed, as well as training to recognize the hazards inherent in rescue efforts (see 16VAC25-73-140, Appendix E).



■ Picture courtesy of TCIA.org

TREE TRIMMING OPERATIONS

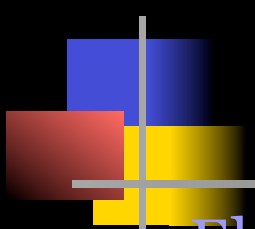
16VAC25-73

- Electrical Hazards,
16VAC25-73-50.
 - A. General.
 - 1. All overhead and underground electrical conductors and all communication wires and cables shall be considered energized with potentially fatal voltages.



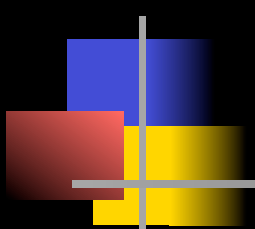
TREE TRIMMING OPERATIONS

16VAC25-73

- 
- Electrical Hazards, 16VAC25-73-50.
 - A. General.
 - This section does not apply to line-clearance tree trimming as defined in 16VAC25-73-20, that shall be conducted in accordance with 16VAC25-90-1910.269.
 - Nonline-clearance tree trimming work around overhead high voltage lines covered by §§ 59.1-406 through 59.1-414 of the Code of Virginia, Overhead High Voltage Line Safety Act (Act) (voltage in excess of 600 volts as defined in the Act), shall be conducted in accordance with the Act.
 - Nonline-clearance tree trimming work around overhead electrical lines of 600 volts or less not covered by the Act shall be conducted in accordance with 16VAC25-90-1910.333(c)(1).

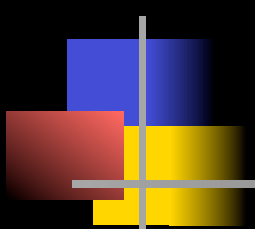
TREE TRIMMING OPERATIONS

16VAC25-73

- 
- Electrical Hazards, 16VAC25-73-50.
 - B. Working in proximity to electrical hazards.
 - 1. The items contained in subsection A of this section shall always be included in the review of this section. Sections 59.1-406 through 59.1-414 of the Code of Virginia, Overhead High Voltage Line Safety Act (Act), are hereby incorporated by reference, and apply as specified in the Act anytime the voltage of overhead high voltage lines exceeds 600 volts as defined in the Act. The Act does not apply anytime line-clearance activities are performed by the employees of the owner or operator of the electrical or communication systems, or independent contractors engaged on behalf of the owner or operator of the system to perform the work.

TREE TRIMMING OPERATIONS

16VAC25-73

- 
- Electrical Hazards, 16VAC25-73-50.
 - B. Working in proximity to electrical hazards.
 - 3. Only qualified line-clearance arborists or qualified line-clearance arborist trainees shall be assigned to work where an electrical hazard exists. Qualified line-clearance arborist trainees shall be under the direct supervision of qualified line-clearance arborists. A qualified line-clearance arborist trainee shall not serve as a ground observer for another qualified line-clearance arborist trainee who is engaged in line clearing operations aloft, unless a qualified arborist is also present at the work site.
 - 4. All other arborists and other workers shall maintain a minimum approach distance from energized electrical conductors in accordance with Table 1.

TREE TRIMMING OPERATIONS

16VAC25-73

Safe use of vehicles and mobile equipment used in arboriculture, 16VAC25-73-60.

- C. Brush chippers (continued) [selected provisions, refer to regulation].
 - 5. Chippers equipped with a mechanical infeed system shall have a quick-stop and reversing device on the infeed system. The activating mechanism for the quick-stop and reversing device shall be located across the top, along each side, and close to the feed end of the infeed hopper within easy reach of the worker.

