

Chainsaw Maintenance, Cross Cutting & Felling Small Trees up to 380mm including the takedown of Hung Up Trees

“This has been a fantastic week. As feedback goes, I can’t fault anything. Every aspect has been thoroughly enjoyable and I’ve looked forward to the next day. Any questions that I had have been answered. If feeling unsure about a cut, guidance was given to make me feel confident with understanding what was needed. I learnt a lot about health and safety and safe working – using good techniques to reduce body strain, insights into the industry, lots of sites to look up and find more information. I have over the years taken many short courses and cannot fault this one. It has met all my expectations and some.”

Description	A comprehensive introduction to chainsaw maintenance, crosscutting & felling small trees in preparation for NPTC assessment Unit 201, 202, 203 (CS 30 and 31).
Next Steps	Benchmark qualifications for work in forestry & arboricultural industry. Allows progression onto NPTC suite of advanced ground and aerial units.
Assessment	Usually arranged at end of the course. Saturday assessments are also available. If further skill consolidation is required assessment can be 2-3 weeks later.

This is a general course outline showing the course objectives. Depending on the experience of the group the course may progress at a quicker rate. On the combined course (unit 201, 202 and 203) less time is spent crosscutting on the second day, to allow candidates to start felling small trees with a standard felling cut. Crosscutting will be practised throughout the week. In general, by day two, attendees have felled at least 2 trees with approximately a 200mm diameter. There will be demonstrations throughout the week.

Day 1:

Chainsaw Maintenance and Crosscutting Objectives

- Identify the necessary Personal Protective Equipment
- Report on its condition and locate standard marks
- Identify health & safety features required on a chainsaw
- Identify faults and defects on a chainsaw and cutting equipment and decide which the operator can remedy and which require a service engineer’s attention.
- Carry out correctly all routine maintenance in accordance with the manufacturers instructions
- Organise site safety and state the procedures required
- Identify the risk Assessment and Emergency procedures on a work site

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Day 2:

- Prepare the chainsaw for use with the correct fuel/oil mix and saw chain lubrication.
- Start the chainsaw from both hot and cold in a safe manner
- Carry out pre-cutting tests and state the procedures if the chainsaw fails these tests
- State the hazards/risks when carrying out maintenance or operational tasks
- Cross-cut timber accurately to required lengths
- Assess and explain the terms tension and compression in timber
- Adopt safe procedures to remove a trapped guide bar
- Handle and stack timber in a safe manner
- Select and use hand tools safety
(practice felling cuts)

Felling Small Trees Objectives

- Organise site safety and state the procedures required
- Assess the trees to be felled for hazards and risks
- Fell trees which have a diameter less than the effective cutting length of the guidebar. Guidebar not greater than 380mm (15")

Day 3 onwards:

- Assess a leaning tree and the safest method of felling
- Make accurate felling cuts in the correct positions
- Cross-cut timber accurately to required lengths
- Assess and explain the terms tension and compression in timber
- Adopt safe procedures to remove a trapped guide bar
- Assess a hung up tree and the safest method of takedown
- Select and prepare equipment required for safe and effective takedown
- Check on the safety of take down tools
- Take down hung up trees to a safe and stable condition
- State all unsafe practices which must not be adopted

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