Arborist Series

FLSA Status: Covered
Bargaining Unit: District Council of Trade Unions (DCTU)

General Summary

Classifications in this broad class specialize in the growth, growth protection, and care of the urban forest.

Arborist I - 30001737

Distinguishing Characteristics

The Arborist I is considered a entry level class in the Arborist Series. This classification provides basic ground support for tree related work. It is distinguished from the Utility Worker series by its focus on trees and ground support for arborists.

Typical Duties/Examples of Work

1. Prunes, removes, applies pest treatment, and plants trees accessible by ground or ladder. Provides ground support for all tree related activities.

2. Operates and maintains equipment, tools and vehicles used in the care of trees including but not limited to small to mid size tractors and attachments, trailers, tree spades, air compressors, chippers, stump grinders and chainsaws not requiring certification other than a CDL to operate.

3. Provides traffic and pedestrian control; responsible for worker and public safety.

4. Responds to calls to work during emergencies both during and after standard shift.

5. Fills out daily work reports and field reports; organizes and processes needed paperwork or other information gathering methods.

6. Under direction of a higher Arborist class, if requested may be trained in performing the duties and skills of the Arborist II.

7. Performs related duties as assigned.

Required Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

Ability to: learn the use and operation of tools and equipment used in the care of trees; communicate effectively both orally and in writing; work effectively with co-workers in a

diverse workforce, and respond appropriately to question/concerns from other employees and the public; work constructively in a team; understand and follow written and verbal instructions.

Special Requirements

Required to obtain within six months of hire date and retain the following:
Class A Commercial Driver's License
EHAP certificate or equivalent
Flagger-Traffic certificate
Oregon Public Pesticide Applicators License.
Any other certifications, certificates or licenses required by law or regulation to perform duties of Arborist I

Classification History:
Adopted: 1-5-12

Arborist II - 30001738

Distinguishing Characteristics:

The Arborist II is distinguished from the Arborist I by its advanced knowledge of ground operations and aerial bucket work. Classification requires additional Certifications, Certificates and Licenses. Incumbents are considered essential during emergency events and are required to work overtime when needed.

Typical Duties/Examples of Work:

1. Prunes, removes and plants trees accessible by ground, ladder or aerial man lift. Provides ground support for all tree related activities including activities such as rigging, traffic and pedestrian control.

2. Operates and maintains equipment, tools and equipment used in the care of trees including and not limited to small to mid size tractors and attachments, trailers, cranes, chippers, aerial man lifts, stump grinders, tree spades, chainsaws. Performs maintenance and minor repair of tools, vehicles and equipment used in the care of trees.

3. Examines trees for hazards and conditions; recognizes pest problems and applies treatment following Federal, State, and local regulations.

4. Responds to calls to work during emergencies both during and after standard shift.

5. Fills out daily work reports and field reports; organizes and processes needed paperwork or other information gathering methods.

6. Under direction of a higher Arborist class, if requested may be trained in performing the duties and skills of the Arborist III.

7. May oversee ground operations, from ground or aerial lift, of pruning, removal, treating, planting or establishing trees.

8. Performs related duties as assigned.

Required Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

Knowledge of: basic tree care techniques including evaluation of disease, insect and root problems; pruning, removal and rigging techniques; basic tree biology; safe pesticide application techniques; occupational hazards and safety precautions; electrical hazards; Knowledge and understanding of OSHA Regulations, ANSI Standards and/or any other Federal, State or City regulations/standards relating to tree care operations.

Ability to: work in adverse site and weather conditions; oversee and direct the work of others; read and understand basic technical manuals, use and operate tools, equipment and vehicles used in the care of trees; communicate effectively both orally and in writing; work effectively with co-workers in a diverse workforce, and respond appropriately to question/concerns from other employees and the public; work constructively in a team; understand and follow written and verbal instructions.

Skill in: evaluating tree conditions and hazards

Special Requirements:

Required to obtain within 6 months of hire date and retain the following:
ISA Arborist Certification or equivalent
ISA Certified Tree Worker/Aerial Lift Specialist or equivalent
Class A Oregon Commercial Drivers' License
Oregon Public Pesticide Applicator License
Crane Certification
EHAP Certificate or equivalent
Flagger-Traffic Certificate
Any other certifications, certificates or licenses required by law or regulation to perform the duties of Arborist II.

Classification History:
Adopted: 1-5-12

Arborist III - 30000248

Distinguishing Characteristics:

The Arborist III is distinguished from the Arborist II by its regular above ground routine work in trees using rope and saddle. This is a skilled classification requiring an all around higher level of Arboricultural knowledge and practices.

Typical Duties/Examples of Work:

1. Performs standard tree maintenance and emergency tree care operations; removes tree hazards and fallen trees during storms and emergencies.

2. Examines trees for hazards and conditions; applies pesticides or refers situations to Tree Inspectors as appropriate.

3. Performs above ground work in trees requiring rigging, climbing, and the use of lifts and related equipment or arboricultural needs.

4. On occasion may be assigned to oversee tree care activities.

5. Provides instruction and/or training to Arborist I and Arborist II classifications. Performs ground duties as required.

6. Responds to tree emergency calls out during and after normal work hours.

7. Fills out daily work reports and field reports.

8. Performs related duties as assigned.

Required Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

Knowledge of: tree care and tree climber techniques, including pruning, removal, aerial rescue, electrical hazards, pesticide application and safe entry and working methods; use and operation of tools, vehicles and equipment used in tree care operations; occupational hazards and safety precautions.

Ability to: communicate effectively both orally, electronically and written; establish and maintain effective working relationships with co-workers; oversee and direct the work of others; read and understand basic technical manuals

Skill in: the safe and effective application, maintenance and operation of the tools and equipment used in the care of trees; working at heights in all weather conditions; tree climbing; evaluating tree conditions and hazards; identifying and treating of pest problems.

A firm knowledge and understanding of OSHA Regulations, ANSI Standards and/or any other Federal, State, or City regulations/standards relating to the care of trees.

Special Requirements:

Required to obtain within 6 months of hire date and retain the following:
ISA Arborist Certification or equivalent
ISA Certified Tree Worker/Aerial Lift Specialist or equivalent
Class A Oregon Commercial Drivers' License
Oregon Public Pesticide Applicator License
Crane Certification
EHAP Certificate or equivalent
Flagger-Traffic Certificate
Any other certifications, certificates or licenses required by law or regulation to perform duties of Arborist III.

Classification History:
Adopted: 2-03-99:
Class created as a result of DCTU Classification and Compensation Study 1998-99. This class is composed of the following classes:
4110 High Climber Adopted:11-01-93
June 2009 - Change Job Class number from 4110 to 30000248, due to system change.
January 2012 - Title of classification changed from High Climber to Arborist III as part of a larger series; description updated and special requirements added.

Arborist IV – 30001739

Distinguishing Characteristics:

The Arborist IV is distinguished from the Arborist III by acting as a lead worker and having an advanced level of Arboricultural, climbing and leadership skills. As assigned, classification is responsible for directing and overseeing all on site tree maintenance, equipment maintenance and emergency tree care operations including the more complex and difficult operations.

Typical Duties/Examples of Work:

1. Responsible for complex tree pruning and removal where there is a higher risk of damage to people, property or tree. Complex operations may require extra equipment and/or multiple devices to control removal of trees and limbs.

2. As lead worker, assesses requested tree projects, assigns work crews and equipment and monitors and coordinate tree work crew projects. Prepares, assigns, directs and monitors the daily schedule and staffing needs for tree maintenance projects and oversees emergency tree care operations

3. Performs above ground work in trees requiring rigging, climbing, and the use of lifts and related equipment or arboricultural needs.

4. Oversees the inventory and maintenance of tools and equipment; directs and/or performs minor repairs, maintenance of tools, vehicles and equipment used in the care of trees; identifies and assists in providing specification for tools and equipment needed.

5. Prepares maintains and/or completes assigned paper work or other information gathering methods.

6. Researches new techniques, equipment and procedures used in the care and removal of trees. Makes recommendations regarding their purchase and use.

7. Assesses and determines resource needs of work group.

8. Provides training and guidance to assigned staff. Assists in tracking certification and training needs of assigned staff. Ensure compliance of department safety standards.

9. Responds to emergency call outs during and after scheduled work shift.

10. Performs related duties as assigned.

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

Knowledge of: principles and practices of leadership; advanced knowledge of the techniques used in the care of trees, rigging, climbing, pruning, removal, planting and any other related tree work; Advanced knowledge in the maintenance and minor repair of tools and equipment used in the care of trees; advanced knowledge of tree biology.

Ability to: perform complex tree pruning and removal; communicate effectively both orally, electronically and written; establish and maintain effective working relationships with co-workers; build, motivate and maintain a team work effort; identify and direct a safe working environment; work in adverse site and weather conditions.

Skill in: the safe and effective application, maintenance and operation of the tools and equipment used in the care of trees; working at heights in all weather conditions; advanced tree climbing; evaluating tree conditions and hazards; identifying and treating of pest problems, providing training to others; keeping records, writing reports and completing work orders.

A firm knowledge and understanding of OSHA Regulations, ANSI Standards and/or any other Federal, State, or City regulations/standards relating to the care of trees.

Special Requirements:

Required to obtain within 6 months of hire date and retain the following:
ISA Arborist Certification or equivalent
ISA Certified Tree Worker/ Climber Specialist or equivalent
ISA Certified Tree Worker/ Aerial Lift Specialist or equivalent
Class A Oregon Commercial Drivers' License
Oregon Public Pesticide Applicator License
Crane Certification
EHAP Certificate or equivalent
Flagger-Traffic Certificate
Any other certifications, certificates or licenses required by law or regulation to perform duties of Arborist IV.

Classification History:
Adopted: 1-5-12
Revised: 12-3-12 Classification revised to clarify ability to assign and monitor daily schedule.
Revised 8-1-14 Classification revised to clarify it is lead classification.

Working Conditions

Work in this class is typically performed in a field environment. Incumbent is typically required to negotiate rough terrain; to lift up to 100 pounds; to work outdoors in all weather conditions; to climb and maneuver in and perform work related tasks in trees up to 200 or more feet in height; to be called back to work during emergencies; to work in and around traffic; to be exposed to hazardous materials; to operate power tools and equipment; to work under hazardous conditions at high elevations, at times in inclement weather, requiring use of rigging and safety precautions for the protection of self and others; to perform aerial rescues as necessary.