

Arborist Series

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

General Summary

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

High Climber, Trainee - 30000247

Distinguishing Characteristics

The trainee level of this class typically performs tree care and emergency tree care operations in a trainee capacity at the direction of High Climber, Lead, and/or Tree Inspector classes. Its regular above ground technical work in trees distinguishes it from the Utility Worker class.

Typical Duties/Examples of Work

1. In a trainee capacity and under the direction of a High Climber, Lead, or Tree Inspector, performs tree care and emergency tree care operations; removes tree hazards and fallen trees during storms and emergencies.
2. Recognizes pest problems and applies pesticides or refers situations to Tree Inspectors, as appropriate.
3. Prunes, removes and plants trees, duties include above ground technical work in trees requiring rigging, climbing, and use of lifts and other equipment used in the arboricultural industry.
4. As assigned, directs work of others; responsible for worker and public safety.
5. Responds to calls to work during emergencies.
6. Fills out daily work reports and field reports.
7. Performs related duties as assigned.

Required Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

Knowledge of: basic tree care techniques; aerial rescue techniques; electrical hazards; safe pesticide application techniques; basic knowledge of tree biology.

Ability to: 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; perform measurements and arithmetic computations including multiplication, division, fractions, decimals and conversions

Skill in: safe and effective application and operation of tools and equipment used in the arboricultural industry; working at heights in all weather conditions; pesticide application

Special Requirements

Valid Class A Commercial Driver’s License; pesticide applicator license; some positions may require additional endorsements, certifications or licenses. Required to obtain within two years of hire the following endorsements: pesticide license, crane certification, EHAP or equivalent, flagger-traffic certificate.

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:

4109 High Climber Trainee Adopted: 11-01-93

June 2009 - Change Job Class number from 4109 to 30000247, due to system change.

High Climber - 30000248

Distinguishing Characteristics

The journey level of this class typically performs tree care and emergency tree care operations, and examines trees for hazards. It is distinguished from the High Climber Trainee class by its full knowledge of class duties and ability to perform duties independently.

Typical Duties/Examples of Work

1. Performs standard tree care 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. Recognizes pest problems and applies pesticides.

4. Prunes, removes and plants trees, duties include above ground technical work in trees requiring rigging, climbing, and use of lifts and other equipment used in the arboricultural industry.
5. As assigned, directs work of others; responsible for worker and public safety, review of work, training and guidance in duties.
6. Fills out daily work reports and field reports.
7. Performs related duties as assigned.

Required Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

Knowledge of: tree care and high climber techniques, including evaluation of disease, insect and root problems, pruning, removal, and safe entry and working methods; aerial rescue techniques; electrical hazards; safe pesticide application techniques; occupational hazards and safety precautions.

Ability to: oversee and direct the work of others; read and understand basic technical manuals

Skill in: Tree climbing; evaluating tree conditions and hazards

Special Requirements

Valid Class A Commercial Driver’s License; pesticide applicator license
Required to obtain within six months of hire the following endorsements:
pesticide license, crane certification, EHAP or equivalent, flagger-traffic certificate.

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.

High Climber, Lead - 30000249

Distinguishing Characteristics

The lead level of this class typically performs all duties of a High Climber and in addition serves as a lead worker. It is distinguished from the High Climber class by the lead assignment. Note: This is a premium pay class for assignment of lead

duties. Employees do not accrue seniority or obtain status in this class. Employee is assigned from a base class.

Typical Duties/Examples of Work

1. Plans, schedules and coordinates work; determines resource needs of work group; directs work of a crew or work group.
2. Reviews the work of and provides training and guidance to assigned staff.
3. Performs related duties as assigned.

Required Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

Knowledge of: tree care techniques, including evaluation, pruning, removal, and safe entry and working methods; effective principles and practices of leadership; intermediate level of knowledge in tree biology.

Ability to: schedule and assign the work of others

Skill in: providing training to others; providing lead direction to staff, including assigning and reviewing work; keep records; write reports and complete work orders

Special Requirements

Valid Class A Commercial Driver’s License; pesticide applicator license

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:

4112 Lead High Climber Adopted: 11-01-93

June 2009 - Change Job Class number from 4111 to 30000249, due to system change.

Tree Inspector - 30000250

Distinguishing Characteristics

The senior level of this class typically inspects trees and sites for compliance with codes, hazard assessment, and other conditions. It is distinguished from the High Climber Lead class by the code compliance and enforcement responsibility.

Typical Duties/Examples of Work

1. Inspects trees for planting, pruning and/or removal permits.
2. Inspects trees and tree-roots to detect hazardous condition or tree diseases.
3. Inspects commercial sites for tree planting requirements and tree preservation planning and for tree cutting applications and possible violations.
4. Writes work orders for urban forestry crews.
5. Records condition of inspected trees and issues written recommendation for future action or posts nuisance abatement to owner in the case of an existing hazard.
6. Reviews plans through the Bureau of Planning permit process for issues related to tree preservation and forest enhancement.
7. Consults with property owners, citizens, and contractors, project managers on tree care and the value and meaning of Title 20 Municipal Code.
8. Composes written correspondence and communicates to other bureaus, contractors, private citizens and interest groups regarding tree issues.
9. Prepares reports and submits information to the Urban Forestry Manager for presentation of the Urban Forestry Commission including oral and slide presentations related to appeal of permit denials.
10. Performs emergency tree and rescues as necessary.
11. Responds to emergency needs including mitigating hazardous situations and rescuing persons in danger.
12. Performs related duties as assigned.

Required Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

Knowledge of: tree codes and professional assessment standards; tree care techniques, including evaluation, pruning, removal, and safe entry and working methods; advanced level of knowledge of tree biology.

Ability to: communicate effectively, both orally and in writing; operate a personal computer; educate the public and co-workers on the proper care of trees and forests through individual contact and group instructions

Skill in: inspecting, assessing and evaluating tree conditions and hazards; interpreting and applying codes and professional standards

Special Requirements

Valid Class A Commercial Driver’s License; pesticide applicator license; crane operator certification; aerial rescue training; some positions may require additional endorsements, certifications or licenses

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:

4114 Tree Inspector Adopted: 11-01-93

June 2009 - Change Job Class number from 4112 to 30000250, due to system change.

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