

HSE Bulletin (Ref.17/2013) Precautions for Tree Climbing

Date of issue: 29 January 2014
Date of expiry 05 March 2014

Background

Following an incident on 19th August 2013 where a Contractor working on behalf of LU fell from an Ivy clad tree suffering significant internal injuries, a prohibition was imposed across the network of arboriculture work that necessitated the climbing of trees.

An investigation into the incident has identified preventative measures so that the risk of this work can be reduced. The key precautions included in the Instructions below are intended to minimise the likelihood of further injuries.

With these in place, Safety Alert 18 in 2013 'Prohibition of Tree Work' has been withdrawn.

Instruction

As per existing processes, arboriculture work should continue to be carried out by suitably licensed and competent staff.

The instructions within this bulletin should be followed until they are incorporated into the Work Instructions, at which stage the Safety Bulletin will be withdrawn;

- Prior to the commencement of any arboriculture work, a thorough assessment of reasonably practicable alternatives to complete the task without working at height or climbing should be undertaken and documented.
- If climbing is identified as the most suitable option, the condition and stability of the tree needs to be thoroughly appraised to identify any signs of weakness, disease or damage.
- As the task progresses further, the risks should continue to be dynamically assessed to ensure staff remain safe at all times.

Please communicate this alert to your teams, projects and suppliers as appropriate

Incident reference	49660
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