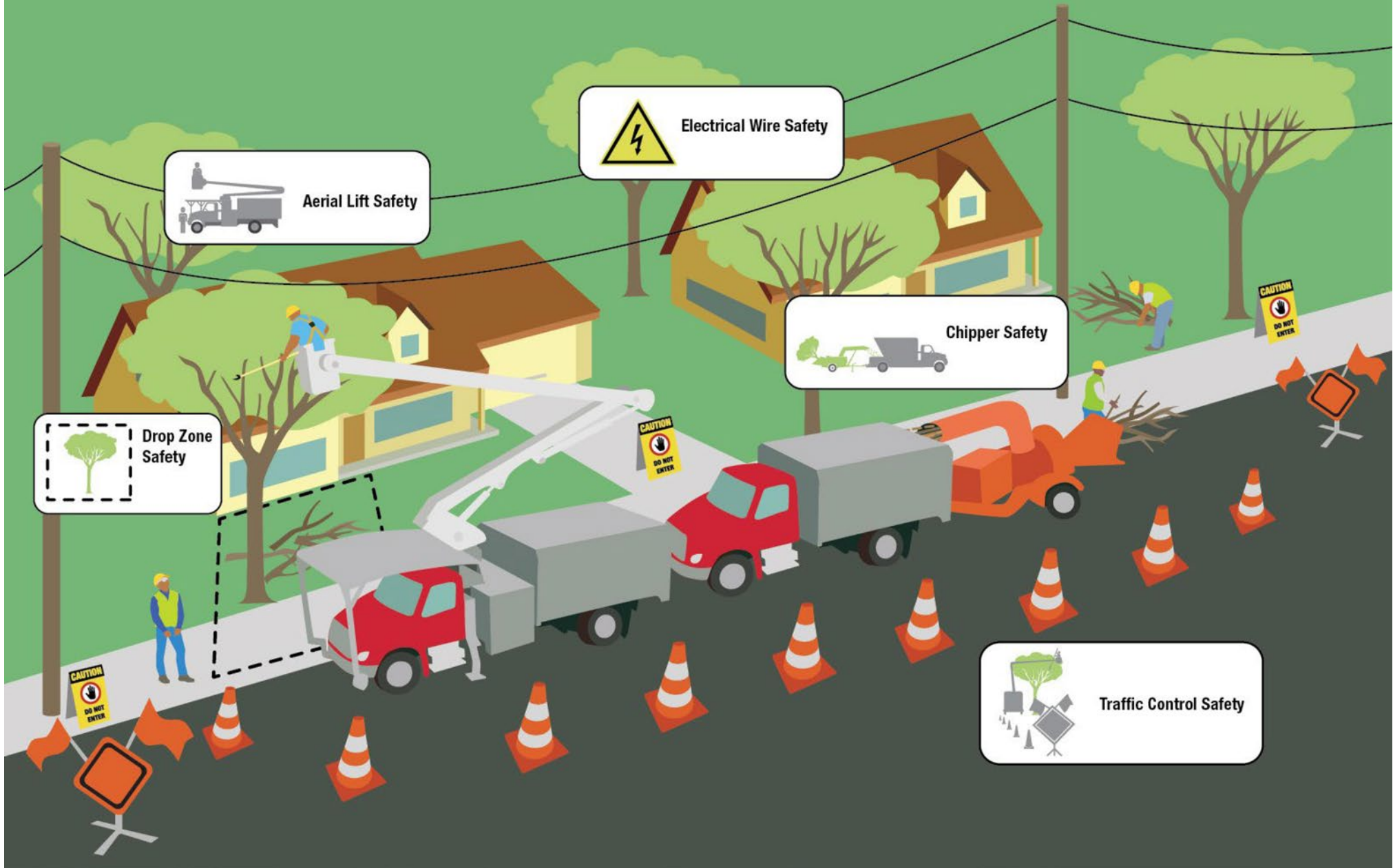
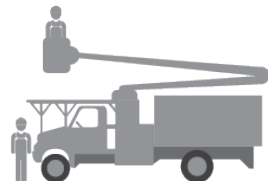


Solutions for Tree Care Hazards



	Traffic Control	Drop Zones	Chippers	Aerial lifts	Power Lines
Risk Factors	Vehicle and pedestrian traffic control safety measures are essential to tree care operations. Workers can be struck by moving vehicles and the traffic zone could interfere with pedestrian traffic.	Workers can be struck by falling trees, tree limbs, and hand tools. These falling objects have enough force to cause serious or even fatal injuries to workers.	Chipper hazards arise when workers manually push material or lean too far into the chipper hopper. Workers can be injured by material thrown from the machine. Chippers also produce hazardous noise levels.	Workers can fall or be thrown from an elevated bucket. The major causes of injuries and fatalities involving aerial lifts are falls, electrocutions, and equipment collapses or tip-overs.	Workers can be electrocuted when a tree limb, branch, or uninsulated aerial lift touches or comes into contact with a live electrical power line.
					
Prevention Tips	- Brief workers on traffic zone safety and site setup. - Develop traffic control plans that include the proper use of control devices. See the U.S. Department of Transportation's Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. - Use cones, barricades, and flaggers to guide vehicles and pedestrian traffic through or around the traffic zone. - Wear high visibility vests. - If operations interfere with traffic, use certified flaggers to help manage traffic. - Provide pedestrians a safe route away from activity area. - Use lights at night.	- Use cones or caution barrier tape to establish, mark, and manage the drop zone. - Provide training on drop zone entry and exit procedures. - Wear a hard hat and eye protection. - Allow only qualified workers near the drop zone. - Establish and maintain visual or audible communication between overhead and ground workers. - Use verbal command and response exchanges, such as the command "stand clear" from the worker aloft and the response "all clear" from persons below, before cutting and dropping limbs.	- Train workers to inspect and operate chippers. - Always follow the manufacturer's instructions. - Make sure that safety guards, controls, and emergency shut-off devices are working properly. - Stand to the side when feeding materials. - Wear safety glasses, a hard hat and hearing protection. - Wear close-fitting clothing, gloves without cuffs, and skid-resistant shoes. - Stow all ropes and lines away from the chipper. - Feed the cut end in first, and use larger pieces to feed in small branches. - Never reach into the chipper's in-feed chute to un-jam materials while it is operating. - Only feed wood material into the machine, never rocks or metal.	- Always follow manufacturer's instructions. - Allow only qualified and trained workers to operate aerial lifts. - Inspect the lift and worksite before each use. - Set outriggers on pads or on a level, solid surface. - Set brakes when outriggers are used. - Watch out for overhead power lines or other obstructions. - Use wheel chocks on sloped surfaces. - Use a body harness or a restraining belt with a lanyard attached to the bucket. - Wear eye protection and a hard hat. Do not wear climbing spurs inside the bucket. - Tie off to an approved anchor point, and stand firmly on the bucket's floor. Do not overreach beyond the edge of the bucket. Do not use bucket for material handling, unless designed for it.	- Train workers to identify and avoid power line hazards, before beginning work. - Treat all overhead power lines and communication cables as energized. Stay at least 10 feet (3 meters) away, unless specifically qualified. - Provide proper personal protective equipment. - Stay alert. - If an overhead power line falls near a worker or equipment, move away from the equipment with short, shuffling steps and keeping feet close together. Do not trim trees in dangerous weather conditions. Do not use corded electric power tools in trees near energized power lines. - Never use ladders made of metal or other conductive materials near overhead power lines. Only use wooden ladders or those made of synthetic material.
Links	Highway Work Zones Topics Page	Tree Care Topics Page	Wood Chipper Safety and Health Bulletin	Aerial Lifts Fact Sheet	Electricity and Tree Care Work



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