

Use of a Chainsaw from a Mobile Elevated Work Platform (MEWP)

Course Objectives:

To enable course members to:

- Identify factors to be included in a risk assessment
- State the relevant legislation and industry best practice in relation to the use of both the handsaw and chainsaw from a MEWP
- Carry out pre-work checks on the MEWP
- Recognise and correct faults on the MEWP
- State and identify the correct personal protective equipment (PPE)
- State the checks that need to be taken under LOLER as applicable to the operation
- Operate the MEWP to achieve suitable work position
- Remove lateral limbs using both handsaw and chainsaw
- Remove vertical stem sections using a chainsaw
- Correctly install and position a pulling rope
- Tie basic knots – running bowline, timber hitch and clove hitch
- The use of manufacturers' instruction books is stressed at all times to ensure maintenance and adjustments are carried out to manufacturers' recommendations.

Who is the course designed for?

Any person employed in arboriculture, forestry, utility industries, horticulture, landscaping or grounds maintenance that is or will be required to operate a chainsaw from a MEWP.

The course is designed to prepare candidates for assessment for NPTC Certificate of Competence unit CS 47

Pre-requisites:

Course members must be trained and hold operator certification in basic chainsaw maintenance, operation and felling small trees (CS 30/31) and the operation of the MEWP.

Note: Operators who already hold a MEWP qualification and NPTC chainsaw units CS30, 31, 38 AND CS39 would not normally be expected to require this training or to achieve the NPTC assessment unit CS47.

Duration:

1 day practical

Instructor/Trainee Ratio:

Max: 1:2 for novices – 1 day, 1 machine

Max: 1:4 for novices – 2 days, 2 machines

Max: 1:4 for experienced operators - Evidence of experience required

Machine: trainee ratio = 1:2

Course Content:

- Introduction & Risk Assessment
- Legislation & PPE
- Prepare MEWP & Chainsaw for use
- Achieve Work Position
- Remove lateral limbs & vertical
- Final Pruning Cuts
- Secure & position pulling line
- Cleaning transport & storage

Equipment & Facilities:

Venue:

- Suitable site for practical operation. Trees to be pruned, including vertical sections to be removed
- Suitable venue for theory sessions.

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Trainees:

- MEWP complying with safety regulations as per AFAG Safety Guide 403
- Fuel in appropriate container for MEWP (if applicable)
- Tool kit for own MEWP (if applicable)
- Operator's instruction books and service manuals for all machinery
- Notebook and pencil
- Chainsaw Safety Helmet
- Ear defenders
- Visor or Safety goggles
- Chainsaw trousers (type A)
- Chainsaw Gloves
- Chainsaws boots
- Hi-viz clothing
- Rear handled chainsaw (max. bar length 15"), c/w maintenance tools
- Fuel/oil in appropriate container for chainsaw