

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS-INDIVIDUAL COMPLEXITY

THE COMPLEXITY OF THE ASSIGNMENT MUST BE DETERMINED BY THE INDIVIDUAL SAWYER. This is based on his/her individual skill, knowledge and understanding of personal capabilities and limitations. The final decision to cut any tree is left up to the individual sawyer; therefore, giving her/him the choice to say "NO" and walk away from any sawing situation they have determined to be beyond their capabilities.

If a thorough job assessing the complexity of the individual situation has been completed, the decision to cut or not to cut will be determined by the GO-NO-GO process. Straight forward-"I FEEL COMFORTABLE WITH THE SAWING SITUATION, I WILL CUT IT" or "I DON'T FEEL COMFORTABLE WITH THE SITUATION, I WILL WALK AWAY FROM IT". **Do not base your decision on "I THINK I CAN DO IT"**.

PERSONAL SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS AND ATTITUDE

- HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THIS SAWING ASSIGNMENT?
- ARE YOU EXERCISING SOUND JUDGEMENT AND AWARENESS?
- IS YOUR ATTITUDE CONVINCING YOU TO GO AGAINST YOUR BETTER JUDGEMENT (GUT FEELING)?
- IS YOUR MIND FULLY ON YOUR WORK?
- DO YOU HAVE SELF CONFIDENCE?
- ARE OVER CONFIDENT?
- ARE YOU DOING THIS AGAINST YOUR WILL?
- IS PEER PRESSURE A FACTOR?
- ARE YOU PROFESSIONLA ENOUGH TO DECLINE THE ASSIGNMENT AND ASK FOR ASSISTANCE?
- DO YOU HAVE ALL THE REQUIRED PPE AND SAWING EQUIPMENT TO DO THE JOB?
- ARE YOU COMPLACENT?

PHYSICAL CONSIDERATIONS

- GENERAL HEALTH
- PHYSICAL CONDITIONING
- ON MEDICATION OR UNDER THE INFLUENCE?
- FATIGUE (can affect good judgment)
- TIME OF DAY
- WORK REST CYCLES (Adequate rest)
- HYDRATION
- MENTAL STATE OR WELL BEING

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

- LIGHT CONDITIONS
- RAIN
- FOG
- SNOW
- SMOKE
- DUST
- WIND DIRECTION AND SPEED
- INSECT DAMAGE
- HEAT
- COLD
- OTHER FACTORS THAT MAY AFFECT YOUR DECISION OR THE ACTUAL OPERATION

FELLING

Analyze the felling job by considering:

:

- SPECIES; LIVE OR DEAD
- SIZE AND LENGTH
- SOUNDNESS / DEFECTS
- TWIN TOPS OR SCHOOL MARM
- WIDOW MAKERS AND HANG UPS
- HEAVY BRANCHES / WEIGHT DISTRIBUTION
- BURNING TOP
- SPIKE TOP
- SPLITS AND FROST CRACKS
- DEFORMITIES SUCH AS MISTLETOE
- DAMAGE BY LIGHTING OR FIRE
- HEAVY SNOW LOADING
- BARK SOUNDNESS OR SLIPPAGE
- DIRECTION OF LEAN
- DEGREE OF LEAN-SLIGHT OR HEAVY
- HEAD LEAN OR SIDE LEAN
- NESTING AND/ OR FEEDING HOLES
- RUSTY (*DISCOLORED*) KNOTS
- PUNKY (*SWOLLEN & SUNKEN*) KNOTS
- FROZEN WOOD
- FOOTING
- WITCHES BROOMS

FELLING (Continued)

Observe the Base of the Tree for:

- HOLLOW "THUD" SOUNDING
- CONKS & MUSHROOMS
- ROT & CANKERS
- SHELF FUNGI OR "BRACKET"
- WOUNDS / SCARS
- SPLIT TRUNK
- INSECT ACTIVITY
- FEEDING HOLES
- BARK SOUNDNESS
- RESIN FLOW ON BARK
- UNSTABLE ROOT SYSTEM/ ROOT PROTRUSIONS

Examine Surrounding Terrain for:

- STEEPNESS OF GROUND
- IRREGULARITIES IN THE GROUND
- DRAWS AND RIDGES
- ROCKS
- STUMPS
- LOOSE LOGS
- GROUND DEBRIS THAT CAN "FLY" BACK OR KICK UP AT THE SAWYER

Examine Immediate Work Area for:

- PEOPLE, ROADS AND OR VEHICLES
- POWERLINES
- DRIVER TREES
- HANG-UPS
- CONSIDER REACTION OF OTHER TREES
- TREES REQUIRING FELLING FIRST IN SEQUENCE
- NEARBY HAZARDS SUCH AS TREES, ROCKS, LOW HANGING LIMBS
- STRUCTURES
- OPENINGS TO FALL TREES INTO
- SNAGS
- FIRE WEAKENED TREES
- WIDOW MAKERS

ESCAPE ROUTES / SAFE ZONES

Walk out and thoroughly check the intended lay or bed of the tree. Look for dead treetops, snags and widow makers that may cause kickbacks or result in another tree or limb becoming a hazard. The escape route and alternates must be a predetermined path along which the cutter proceeds once the tree is committed to the fall or to the bucking cut. Safe zones should be no less than 20 feet from the stump, preferably stand uphill behind another tree (sound and of sufficient size to give protection) watching for whiplash, broken tree parts etc. Escape routes and safe zones should be angled (90-135) 45 degrees either side from the direction of fall. Sawyers must select and prepare the work area, clear escape routes and alternates before starting the first cut.

BUCKING

- NEVER BUCK A TREE THAT IS CONSIDERED UNUSUALY DANGEROUS
- CONSIDER OVERHEAD HAZARDS
- IS GUIDE BAR LENGTH ADEQUATE FOR THE TREE TO BE BUCKED
- ESTABLISH GOOD FOOTING, SWAMP OUT BUCKING AREAS AND ESCAPE ROUTE
- SELECT BUCKING CUT CAREFULLY
- ANTICIPATE LOGS REACTION WHEN SEVERED

Examine the Log and Immediate Area for:

- PERCENT OF SLOPE / INCLINE
- ROLLING
- SLIDING
- BIND
- TENSION
- COMPRESSION
- ROCKS & FOREIGN OBJECTS ON LOG
- PEOPLE AND PROPERTY IN CUTTING ZONE
- SPRING POLES
- FIRE
- ROOT WADS
- OVERHEAD HAZARDS
- ROCKS OR OTHER ITEMS THE TREE MAY DISLodge
- SICSORING OF STEMS