

## CAREER OF THE MONTH

# Safety Coordinator – Utility Tree Care

### Job Description

Safety coordinators are responsible for developing and maintaining strong integrated safety programs within a company. This includes written policies, an ongoing training program, site inspections, and record keeping.

Safety coordinators often make site visits to oversee that workers are out of harm's way.

### Typical Background

Safety coordinators often come up through the ranks of the tree crew. Many have formal education in arboriculture with training in utility work.

### Eligibility Requirements

Strong communication, management, and leadership skills are essential. Many companies require ISA arborist certification, and some recommend or require Certified Tree Worker/Climber Specialist status.

### Education/Training Needs

- General work site safety and hazard recognition
- Electrical hazard awareness training
- Line clearance training
- Work orders and work plan preparation
- Job briefings
- Basic management training
- Communication skills
- Emergency procedures
- First aid and CPR
- Chain saw use and safety
- Chipper use and safety
- Proper equipment use and maintenance
- Pruning principles and techniques
- Tree identification proficiency
- Tree biology
- Diagnostic training, especially hazard recognition

### Education Training Materials

- TCIA: *Foreman Training Program*
- TCIA: *Home Study Program*
- ISA: *Evaluation of Hazard Trees in Urban Areas*
- ISA: *Arborist Certification Study Guide*
- ISA ArborMaster Video Series and Workbook: *Chain Saw Use and Safety*
- TCIA Video: *Back Injury Prevention*
- ISA ArborMaster Video Series and Book: *The Art and Science of Practical Rigging*
- ANSI Z133.1 Safety Standards
- ANSI A300 Pruning
- TCIA Video Set: *Rigging for Removal*
- TCIA Tailgate Safety Program
- Electrical Hazards Awareness Program
- Best Management Practice: *Pruning*

### Certifications/Licenses

Commercial Drivers License (CDL) may be required. First Aid and CPR certification are probably required. ISA arborist certification is recommended, and Utility Specialist certification is highly recommended.

### Typical Future Career Paths

Safety coordinators may move up into management positions within their company or may switch to another sector within the industry, such as commercial arboriculture.

You can learn more about utility arboriculture at [www.utility-arborist.org](http://www.utility-arborist.org), the Web site of the Utility Arborist Association (UAA).

UAA now has a job bank available online. For a limited time only resumé and job postings are free!

For more information on this and other careers go to <http://www.isa-arbor.com/careersInArboriculture/flowchrt.aspx>.