

Techniques For Standard And Complex Tree Felling Operations



Tree felling is an essential part of arboriculture and forestry. Whether it is for hazard mitigation, land clearing, or timber extraction, proper tree felling techniques are crucial to ensure the safety of both personnel and surrounding property. In this article, we will explore various techniques utilized in standard and complex tree felling operations.

Standard Tree Felling

Standard tree felling refers to the removal of trees that do not possess any major complications or obstacles. This technique is commonly employed in residential

areas, parks, or open spaces where the tree size and surrounding structures are not overly restricted.



Tree Faller's Manual: Techniques for Standard and Complex Tree-Felling Operations

by Val Waldeck (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

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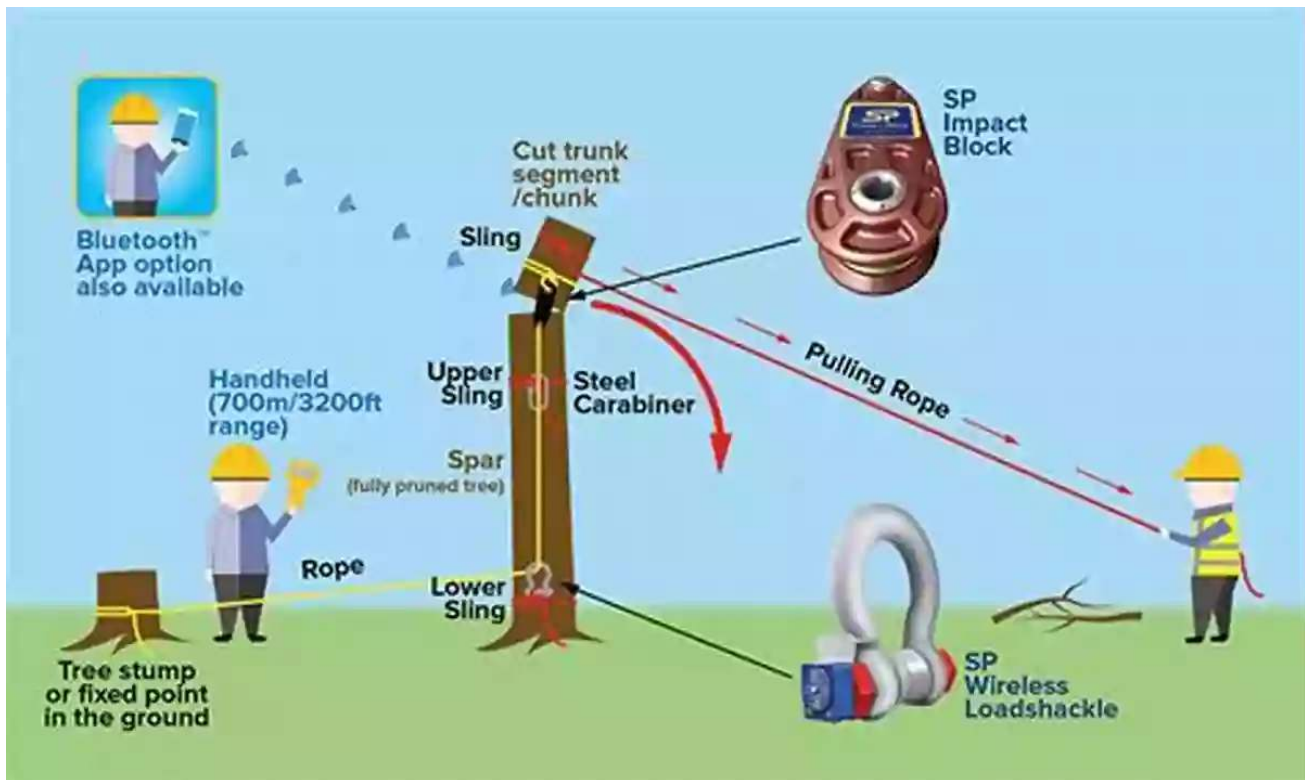
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One widely-used technique in standard tree felling is the straight-line directional felling. It involves making a precise cut on the side of the tree that faces the desired fall direction. This cut, known as the felling cut, should be horizontal, approximately 1/3 of the tree's diameter, and placed low enough to provide good control during the tree's descent. Once the felling cut is completed, a backcut is made on the opposite side of the tree to create a hinge that guides the tree's fall in the intended direction.



Another technique commonly used in standard tree felling is the controlled dismantling. This technique is employed when there are structures, obstacles, or limited space around the tree that requires a more precise and controlled removal process. Arborists often use ropes and pulleys to lower tree sections carefully to the ground, minimizing potential damage to the surroundings.

Complex Tree Felling

Complex tree felling operations involve situations where various factors create challenges that require advanced skills and techniques. These challenges may include limited access, confined spaces, structural intrusion, unstable trees, or preservation of nearby vegetation.

One specialized technique used in complex tree felling is sectional dismantling. This method involves removing the tree in smaller sections, piece by piece, to ensure controlled and safe removal. Arborists, equipped with harnesses and

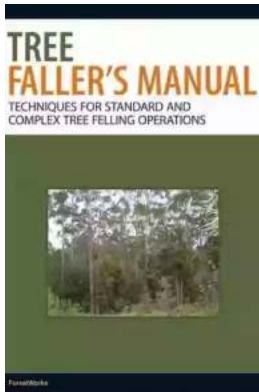
ropes, safely ascend the tree to cut and lower branches and sections systematically. Sectional dismantling requires careful planning and coordination to ensure the safety of both the workers and the property.



Another technique applicable to complex tree felling operations is the use of cranes or aerial platforms. In situations where trees are located in hard-to-reach areas, such as over buildings or on steep slopes, arborists may utilize cranes or aerial platforms to access and remove problematic sections safely. These heavy machinery options provide additional stability and control over the felling process.

Tree felling operations require careful planning, skilled personnel, and appropriate techniques to ensure the safety of both the workers and the surrounding environment. Standard techniques such as straight-line directional felling and controlled dismantling are commonly used in residential and open

areas. On the other hand, complex techniques like sectional dismantling and the use of cranes or aerial platforms are employed in more challenging situations where obstacles, limited access, or confined spaces are present. Employing the right technique for each situation is crucial for a successful and safe tree felling operation.



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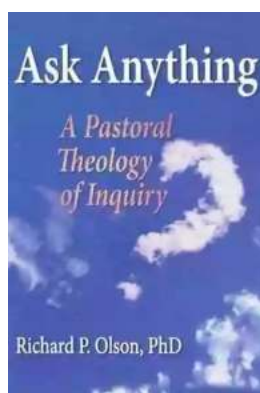
The Tree Faller's Manual is an essential handbook for forest operators and others who need to fell trees manually using a hand-held chainsaw. This manual builds on the information provided by the Chainsaw Operator's Manual.

Tree felling is a high risk activity. Many fatalities and serious injuries have occurred as a result of being struck by falling trees, dislodged tree limbs or other dangers in the area. Most of these accidents are caused by using unsafe felling techniques and not following safe work procedures. This manual will guide the faller to safer work techniques.

The manual is based on the national competency standards for the forest and forest products industry where tree-felling is covered using three categories:

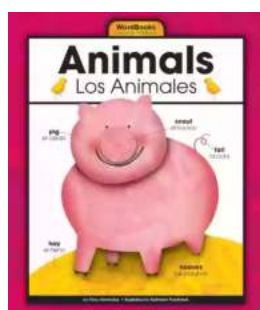
basic, intermediate and advanced. Basic tree felling applies to trees that are relatively small, with a single stem and no defects. Intermediate tree felling covers trees with single or multiple stems, limited defects, and lean and weight distribution that can be adapted to felling direction. Advanced tree felling applies to larger and more complex trees and includes trees deemed to be more hazardous.

Workplace safety, risk assessment and site preparation are included along with the theory, techniques and tools for each of the tree-felling categories.



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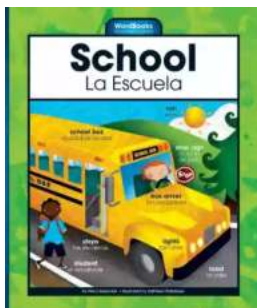
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