

# Tree trimming/arbicultural industry

## Traffic and public protection

Do you conduct work on or around road ways?

Does your tree trimming work have the potential for items to fall onto people?

If you answer yes to either of these questions you may need to consider doing additional things to ensure the safety of workers and others when you are undertaking your business operations.

You should ensure:

- workers wear suitable high visibility clothing at all times, including when working near traffic areas
- traffic is kept clear of your equipment and/or any potential for flying debris (ie, wood chips, branches etc) – you can do this by having total or partial road closures which are approved by local council, using barricading to prevent access to equipment, re-routing traffic flow, conducting the work at times of the day when traffic flow is least, etc
- appropriate signage is used. The 'Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices' (available from Department of Main Roads, Spring Hill office) outlines the requirements for road signage including issues such as reduced speed zones
- qualified traffic controllers are utilised when required. As from September 2004 traffic controllers are required to be licensed by Queensland Transport
- all vegetation trimmed from trees is removed from areas where the public can access, either by transporting it to local refuse tips or chipping on site and removal of chips
- exclusion zones are established at ground level around operating equipment and when there is any likelihood of items falling to the ground to prevent people accessing the high risk area
- if footpath area is closed, ensure that pedestrians have an alternate route, and that appropriate road/footpath closure permits have been obtained from local authorities
- additional ground crews may be required to liaise between the tree cutting crew and the traffic controllers, or simply to ensure that the public is kept well clear, and also to assist in speedy removal of debris from roadways, thus minimising traffic congestion.

For more information on workplace health and safety issues call 1300 369 915 or visit [www.deir.qld.gov.au](http://www.deir.qld.gov.au)

**Disclaimer:** Any advice given to you as an obligation holder by Workplace Health and Safety Queensland Small Business Advisors is given only to assist you to discharge your obligations under the Workplace Health and Safety Act 1995 (Qld). Compliance with this advice does not relieve you of your obligations under that Act. Any advice is given on the basis that you will make your own independent assessment of what action is necessary to ensure your compliance with the Act.

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