

June is National Safety Month! And since worker safety and professionalism have always been a primary focus of the Tree Care Industry Association, we've been highlighting safety tips throughout the month.

Safety Month Tip #1: Wearing proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is an easy way to reduce employee exposure to hazards. So why wouldn't you protect yourself with these tools of the trade? Download a PPE fact sheet here: <http://bit.ly/jd7gxx>

Safety Month Tip #2: Don't forget that getting to the job safely is as important as working on the job safely. Driving and texting is a dangerous trend, and TCIA wants our members to be aware of this danger. Learn more here: <http://bit.ly/iyndvf>

Safety Month Tip #3: If you work or spend time in wooded or grassy areas, you should be aware of the risk of Lyme disease. Download a quick card here <http://bit.ly/IPX3Xj> to educate yourself and your employees.

Safety Month Tip #4: *TCI Magazine* compiles a list of Accident Briefs each month. We suggest that you take time to review these incidents and remind your employees of how critical safety is in the tree care industry. Read them here: <http://bit.ly/INC3FP>

Here are a few safety submissions by TCIA members:

“As it is National Safety Month, I thought I'd share a memo I once wrote and handed out to the guys after a safety meeting. It got a lot of “wows” and raised eyebrows. Our guys were both educated and entertained. Hope you all enjoy as well: Safety is such an integrated and oftentimes complex aspect of our daily operations that it is easy to forget some basic principles and how they affect our daily lives. For Example: Given the rate of gravitational acceleration (about 32Ft/second²) and Force = mass X acceleration. (And a page's worth of scribble and eraser marks.) A 70 LB. piece of wood (relatively small) cut from a height of 37ft (not very high) would be traveling at a rate of roughly 33MPH and exert roughly 1,051 Lbs. (more than a half ton) of force when it hit the ground in about 1.5 seconds (the word “headache!!” yelled loudly immediately followed by either the word “oops” or “huh” spoken softly, takes about 1.8 seconds. So, there's not much time to get out of the way). A 150 Lb. man would apply almost 2,252 Lbs. of force to the ground when he hit it from the same height. (Depending on how well he squishes when he hit the ground, the more the squish, the less the force.) Personally, I wouldn't want someone to even ‘gently’ place an almost full pallet of salt on me. Let along hit me with one. So let's all keep the basics in mind and have a good day.” Jason Miller, CTSP, Clauser Tree Care

“Always carry your cell phone on your person. Was doing a tree risk assessment and left my phone in the truck so I would not be bothered by constant calls. As I walked to the back of the condo complex I slipped on an ivy slope breaking my leg and dislocating my ankle. As I lay in the ditch without my phone I called for help for 20 minutes. With no one coming, I crawled to the road where a latino worker saw me. He got my phone from my truck, I called 911 and now I'm recovering. Lesson learned. Will always have my phone on me.” – Robert Brettschneider, CTSP, Boutte Tree, Inc.

“Not mine, but a great truth: Safety is not something you can take for granted. It is not an activity in which one participates only when being watched or supervised. Safety is not posters, slogans or rules, nor is it movies, investigations or inspection. Safety is an Attitude, a frame of mind. It is the awareness of one’s environment and actions, all day, every day. Safety is; knowing what is going on around you; knowing what can injure anyone anything, at anytime; knowing how to prevent that injury and then acting to prevent it. To do this does not require a Ph.D or even a title or rank. All it requires is a little intelligence and a reasonable amount of common sense and awareness (To see, to hear, to smell, to think and take action). To ignore safe practices does not indicate bravery, only foolishness. To do things safely, and correctly is the mark of professionalism.” – Sam Kezar, CTSP, North American Training Solutions

Have your own safety tips? Email them to webmarketing@tcia.org and we’ll add to our growing list. And don’t forget: TCIA’s Safety pages are available 24/7 at <http://bit.ly/mKyDUy>