

DON'T FALL SHORT OF SAFETY THIS AUTUMN!!!

BY ERICK QUINTANA- APS TREE WORKER-METRO

Autumn or “Fall” is upon us, even though to most it doesn’t exist here in the valley of the two seasons. It’s supposed to, beginning this month, only be in the 90’s, but we have promises of lowered temperatures to come.

Autumn or Fall (whichever you prefer) reminds one of the aspects of the danger that could “**FALL UPON US**” (no pun intended) while tree working.

One of the initial dangers we come into contact with is the actual work zone. It is **tail boarded** to inform all, of the hazards both in and around the tree(s). Whether it is tripping hazards or hangers in a tree, gravity is sure to play a major roll in both cases.

Once everything is tail boarded, now the task of ascending the tree. Usually when climbing, a ladder can be of great use if secured properly. While in the tree comes the danger of falling out, if not correctly secured in a safe crotch.

Falling limbs and suckers are the next danger one faces when cutting or pruning. The correct cuts and clear communication are vital to keep everyone informed and safety of the tree worker’s actions aloft. As a ground worker, **stand clear** of the drop zone. Finally **when in doubt**, use a rope to control any limbs being removed.

Don’t forget the chance of saws or any tools hitting the ground at an accelerated rate. Again staying clear of the drop zone will prove to be advantageous in either situation.

Finally there are the risks of felling trees. An estimation of the tree’s height and width should be utilized in order to

avoid all hazards. Choosing the correct cut and position of the cut is crucial in determining the tree's final resting place on the ground. As we all know, a pull rope should be used for the appropriate tree diameter.

Together we can make this **Fall**, I mean Autumn, a safe one, so that all tree workers can have a safe and cool time before this holiday season.

**"TIE INTO
SAFETY"**

