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NOTE: *This Subdivision is effective July 1, 2008.*

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Oregon Administrative Rules
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TREE CLIMBING / CLIMBING EQUIPMENT GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

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NOTE: *This is effective July 1, 2008.*

437-007-1500 Tree Climbing General Requirements.

(1) The employer must develop rescue procedures that include:

- (a) Adequate personnel and equipment to perform the rescue.
- (b) Training in procedures to rescue a climber from a tree.

(2) When rescuing a climber, use procedures or equipment that will:

- (a) Provide support to the climber's upper body (chest) and pelvis,
- (b) Maintain the injured climber in an up-right position during rescue.

NOTE: Rescues may be accomplished using standard, familiar equipment, not special gear designed solely for rescue, as long as it supports the body as stated above.

(3) When the injured climber is wearing only a climbing belt, before rescue starts, provisions must be made to prevent the climber from slipping through the climbing belt.

NOTE: A climbing saddle or sit harness is designed to prevent slipping.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 654.025(2) and 656.726(4).

Stats. Implemented: ORS 654.001 through 654.295.

Hist: OR-OSHA Admin. Order 3-2008, f. 3/7/08, ef. 7/1/08.

NOTE: *This is effective July 1, 2008.*

437-007-1505 Climbing Equipment General Requirements.

(1) Before leaving the ground, the climber must:

- (a) Visually check their climbing equipment,
- (b) Immediately remove defective or damaged climbing equipment from service.
- (c) Check hardware for secure closure before placing their weight on the lanyard or life support rope.
- (d) Tie, dress and set all climbing knots.

(2) Splices must be made according to cordage manufacturer's recommendations.

(3) Life support ropes (climbing line) that are in service must:

- (a) Be easily identifiable.
- (b) Have a minimum breaking strength of 5,400 pounds.

- (c) Be used only for climbing.
- (4) Remove life support rope from climbing service when:
 - (a) It has been subjected to a shock load.
 - (b) There is excessive wear or damage detected during inspection.
- (5) Webbing used for life support must be applied in a manner that provides a minimum breaking strength of 5,400 pounds.
- (6) Climbing hardware must have a minimum breaking strength of 5,000 pounds.
- (7) Lanyard snap hooks must be self closing and self locking.
- (8) When a cutting tool is used in a tree, the climbing rope (lanyard) must be a high-quality steel safety chain of 3/16-inch size or larger or a wire core rope.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 654.025(2) and 656.726(4).
Stats. Implemented: ORS 654.001 through 654.295.
Hist: OR-OSHA Admin. Order 3-2008, f. 3/7/08, ef. 7/1/08.

NOTE: *This is effective July 1, 2008.*

437-007-1510 Climbing Procedures General Requirements.

- (1) Before climbing a tree, assess the tree and immediate area for any potential hazards that could affect the climbing activity.
- (2) When stopping to rest or work, the climber must be secured to the tree.
- (3) When using a knot to adjust the length of a cable core lanyard, use a “cats paw” (Becket Hitch), friction hitch or mechanical friction device attached to a compatible size eye splice or D-ring of a climbing belt, saddle or harness.
- (4) Don’t use climbing belts by themselves for rappels, ascender use, or friction hitch climbing.
- (5) While climbing operations are active, personnel on the ground must be positioned where they will not be struck by falling objects.
- (6) When it is necessary for ground personnel to work directly below the climber, the climber must not be engaged in any activity where tools, rigging or other objects could be dropped or dislodged from the tree.
- (7) The climber must give warning when any equipment or material is in danger of dropping, or is to be dropped deliberately.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 654.025(2) and 656.726(4).
Stats. Implemented: ORS 654.001 through 654.295.
Hist: OR-OSHA Admin. Order 3-2008, f. 3/7/08, ef. 7/1/08.

RIGGING TREES FOR CABLE LOGGING SYSTEMS / FOUR INCH TIE-IN SYSTEMS

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NOTE: This is effective July 1, 2008.

437-007-1515 Rigging Trees For Cable Logging Systems.

(1) Yarding of any type must not be conducted within reach of the tree or guylines of a tree in which a climber is working.

(2) When machines are used to hoist rigging:

(a) A person must be assigned to transmit the climber's signals.

(b) The signal person and machine operator must not perform other duties when the climber is in the tree.

(c) Noisy equipment, such as power saws, tractors and other logging machines, must not be operated around the area where a climber is working when such noise will interfere with the climber's signals.

(3) Lines attached to a tree in which a climber is working must not be moved except on a signal from the climber.

(4) Unsecured equipment, rigging, or material must not be left in the tree.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 654.025(2) and 656.726(4).

Stats. Implemented: ORS 654.001 through 654.295.

Hist: OR-OSHA Admin. Order 3-2008, f. 3/7/08, ef. 7/1/08.

NOTE: This is effective July 1, 2008.

437-007-1520 Four Inch Tie-In Systems.

(1) Use a belay (snubbing) system, with dynamic rope, when climbing above the 4-inch bole diameter in conifers or above the last secure tie-in point capable of providing life support in hardwoods.

(2) Install 4-inch tie-in system protection (rigging points) at least every 3 feet along the bole or branch to limit falls to no more than 6 feet.

(3) Climbers must not:

(a) Place side loads on the carabiner gate.

(b) Use static cordage for applications where dynamic loading could occur.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 654.025(2) and 656.726(4).

Stats. Implemented: ORS 654.001 through 654.295.

Hist: OR-OSHA Admin. Order 3-2008, f. 3/7/08, ef. 7/1/08.

NOTE: This is effective July 1, 2008.

437-007-1525 Belayed (Snubbing) Climbing System.

- (1) The belay line must be a dynamic rope with a minimum 5400 pounds breaking strength.
- (2) Do not use a body belay.
- (3) Do not use a chest harness as the tie-in point.
- (4) Follow the requirements of Appendix 7-K.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 654.025(2) and 656.726(4).

Stats. Implemented: ORS 654.001 through 654.295.

Hist: OR-OSHA Admin. Order 3-2008, f. 3/7/08, ef. 7/1/08.

NOTE: This is effective July 1, 2008.

437-007-1530 Three Point Climbing System.

- (1) Use a three-point climbing system (three-points of contact) when tree climbing.

NOTE: A three-point system is not required when using an approved rappel or ascender system.

- (2) While tree climbing, three-points of contact must be firmly in place on a secure surface before moving to another point.

NOTE 1: Each hand and foot (or climbing spur) is considered a potential point of contact.

NOTE 2: Other parts of the body, such as a hooked knee or armpit, may be considered contact points if the body part is physically capable of supporting the full body weight.

NOTE 3: A lanyard around the tree bole or appropriate limb that is secured to the safety harness or climbing belt on both ends counts as two points of contact.

- (3) Do not use unsound branches or stubs for support.
- (4) Climbing without being secured to the tree is not allowed except in conifers when, in the judgment of the qualified climber, the density of branches growing from the stem would require so many limb-overs, attaching and reattaching the lanyard, as to become a greater hazard than simply climbing that section of the tree.
- (5) Climbing in conifers without being secured is not allowed above the 4-inch bole diameter.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 654.025(2) and 656.726(4).

Stats. Implemented: ORS 654.001 through 654.295.

Hist: OR-OSHA Admin. Order 3-2008, f. 3/7/08, ef. 7/1/08.

STORAGE & TRANSPORTATION OF CLIMBING EQUIPMENT GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

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NOTE: This is effective July 1, 2008.

437-007-1535 Storage and Transportation of Climbing Equipment General Requirements. Do not store or transport climbing equipment:

- (1) Near extreme heat sources.
- (2) In contact with gas, oil, chemicals, chemical vapors, battery and other acids.
- (3) In contact with sharp or pointed objects and other items that can damage the climbing gear.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 654.025(2) and 656.726(4).

Stats. Implemented: ORS 654.001 through 654.295.

Hist: OR-OSHA Admin. Order 3-2008, f. 3/7/08, ef. 7/1/08.

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