



THE CONNECTICUT ARBORIST

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Connecticut Tree Protective Association, Inc.

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Arborist Business Registration - What it Means To You

On October 1, 2013 the arborist law changed. With this change, all arborist businesses must now register with the DEEP. For some companies, this change has not been major. Tree care companies that apply pesticides as a part of their services are required to add some additional record keeping requirements. Otherwise, the registration process is the same, with no additional fees associated for those who currently pay the registration fee. For those companies that do not apply pesticides, however, the change is an important one to note.

The changed sections of the arborist law are Sec. 23-65g through 23-65m. Under these sections, arborist businesses now need to keep a record of the type of work performed, the date and location, the name and license

number of the supervising arborist and the names of any person performing the work for each non-pesticide arboricultural service performed for its clients. These records must be kept for five years and may be inspected by DEEP.

There is an annual registration fee of \$240.00 for all arborist businesses regardless of the number of employees, with late fees for renewals that are received after the August 31 expiration. Companies that have been paying a registration fee under the pesticide business registration do not need to pay a second fee. Companies with separate business locations or more than one business name must register each location/name separately. A company must also have a CT licensed arborist listed

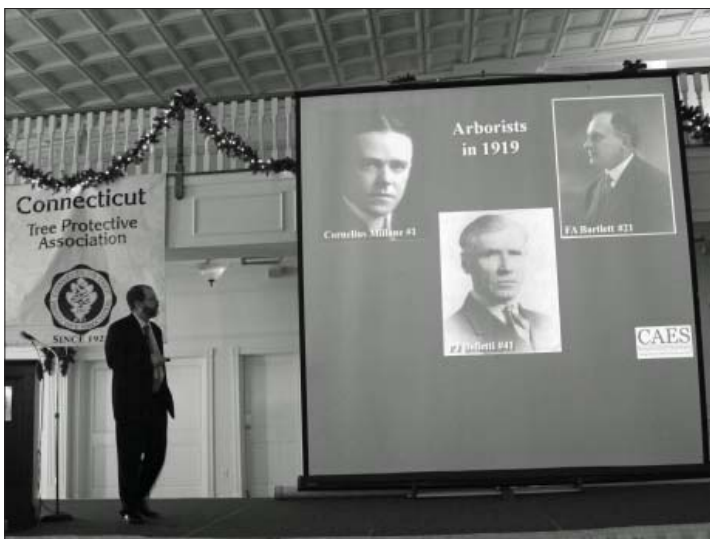
for each separate location. The same licensed arborist may supervise more than one location. However, the licensed arborist is expected to be actively involved as a supervisor. This includes having knowledge of each of the jobs he or she is overseeing and not being responsible for the supervision of more than 10 tree care workers, as described in the regulations associated with the arborist law.

As the services they provide are not considered to be arboriculture as defined in state statute, utility tree service providers are exempt from these requirements.

What do People Think?

To date, the arborist business registration has been receiving mixed reviews from the arborist community. It is fair to say, based on general comments, that many of those arborists whose businesses are already registered see it as simply more bureaucracy. There are those who see it largely as a means by which the state can raise additional revenue. There is a small group that finds the arborist business registration puts a specific burden on them. This is the group of tree care businesses that apply pesticides and that are owner/licensee operated with no employees. Under the rules of the pesticide business registration, the registration fee for these companies previously was waived. Under the arborist business registration, that

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CAES Forester and CTPA Past President Jeff Ward discusses the role of arborists in the history of Connecticut's forests at the 2015 Annual Meeting.

CTPA Annual Meeting, January 21, 2016 - The Aqua Turf, Plantsville, CT

CTPA Seeks New Board Members

The board of CTPA is currently seeking candidates for board membership. It is looking for individuals who are committed to arboriculture and to advancing the care of trees in Connecticut; people who have a solid understanding of the goals of CTPA and who are willing to commit the time and effort needed to make CTPA better.

The board is looking for people who can help plan the future of the Association and then work to make those plans come to life. The Association continuously faces new challenges. Currently it is renting office space and needs to determine

its next step regarding office and meeting space. With the upgrade of the website, someone is needed to spearhead communications. Over the past several years, the Association has introduced new annual events such as EHAP, the Climbing Competition, Arboriculture 101 and the Arbor Day celebration. Individuals are needed who can continue to bring enthusiasm and dedication to these activities and perhaps new ones as well. Plus, the Association will continue to hold its Summer and Annual meetings and otherwise provide service to its 800-plus membership.

Looking for the Right People

No small order, but that is why CTPA is seeking the right people. To be a board member, an individual should plan on attending monthly board meetings as well as be able to donate on average a day's worth of time per month to CTPA. Board members are also expected to chair a CTPA committee by the end of their second year.

Individuals interested in being candidates should contact Rich Mitchell, President of CTPA, or Chris Donnelly, CTPA Past President. Please be prepared to provide either Rich or Chris with a

short bio and statement as to why you are interested in being on the board. The current Board will produce a slate of officers and directors at its November 10th meeting, to be voted on by the membership as a whole at its Annual Meeting in January.

Alternatively, if you as a member know someone whom you feel would make a great board member, please pass the name of that person on to either Chris or Rich. A current board member will contact this person to assess his or her interest in being on the board.

There is no monetary compensation for being on the CTPA Board of Directors – the reward comes in providing service to highly-respected, highly-motivated group of individuals who are of the same mind when it comes to the importance of trees and tree care. Within just a few short years, CTPA will be celebrating its 100th anniversary. Achieving that milestone will be testimony to the solid leadership the organization has received over the past century – and that will no doubt continue when CTPA enters its second 100 years.

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*We advance the care of
Connecticut's trees.*

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Association

CTPA's Web Site - www.CTPA.org



The 2014 and 2015 Boards, gathered for a holiday photo. CTPA's 2015 President Rich Mitchell and 2014 President Ken Placko are in the front row.

Wood Chipper Safety - the Basics of Doing it Right

by Bud Neal, Owner, Neal Tree Service



Chippers have long been a part of tree care and are considered essential by most tree care companies. Using chippers safely is also essential to doing tree care correctly.

Wood chippers are machines that require the utmost attention to safety from all who use them. After all, any machine that can turn several hundred pounds of solid wood into chips in a matter of seconds and then blow them out of a chute and into the back of a truck is a force to be reckoned with. To the chipper, flesh and bone are nothing. It takes a mere blink of the eye to go from just another busy workday to major tragedy. The difference between the two is the attention that the chipper operator, and indeed everyone around on the job site, pays to safety.

Basic Safety Tips

Here are a few comments to help keep you in the right frame of mind regarding chipper safety. First, personal protective equipment, PPE, is your number one priority. This includes a hard hat to protect you from bumps, face protection to guard against whipping limbs and flying debris, eye protection and hearing protection. Baggy clothing, bucket harnesses or chaps are all invitations to disaster, as infeeding brush could snag this clothing and pull the individual in. If you are wearing a protective vest, wear the kind that breaks away. Wear snug fitting gloves. Good work boots are always a good investment, for protecting toes and ankles as well as reducing work fatigue.

If your chipper came with a push paddle, make sure you have it handy and make use of it. If you don't have one, use a longer piece of brush to push the small materials into the rollers. Do not, DO NOT, push small material into the rollers by leaning into the feed area. Poly forks and poly shovels will also do the job – if they go through the chipper, no damage should result.

The winch cable is designed to assist in dragging brush to the feed table of the chipper. It is not designed to force material into the knives. Using the cable to help push

material into the rollers is one of the ways that cables get sucked into the knives and cause damage to the machinery. Make sure that the winch cable is drawn up when not in use. Leave no slack for infeeding brush to grab on to and strip the cable from off of the drum and into the knives. The 'last chance' cables are just that – if you are in danger of falling into the chipper or are even on your way in, the last chance cables are set up so that you can grab them and reverse the direction of the rollers. Not all machines have these sorts of cables. On other machines, the 'panic bar' serves a similar function. If your machine has last chance cables or a panic bar, be sure that they are intact and in good repair. You don't want your last thought to be, "I was going to fix that tomorrow."

Think of Positioning

Make sure that you keep the work area safe. Proper placement of the chipper is important. Do not have the feed table close to the ground. Keep it as high as possible so that you do not get pulled in by the brush grabbing your feet or legs. Keep the work area clean around the chipper and especially around the feed table, so that you or others do not trip. You should avoid chipping by yourself – other co-workers should be around. Just as in tree felling, always have an avenue of escape from the chipper.

If for some reason you have to go to the other side of the chipper while the chipper is in use and your feed table has brush on it, walk around the back of the brush or in front of the truck. Do not step over the brush to get to the other side.

Do not leave the chipper running unattended. If you have to drag brush from around the house, turn the chipper off until you have gathered enough brush and brought it to the chipper. Then start the chipper again. A running chipper with no operator around is only asking for trouble.

Do not let the homeowner or any person not employed by your company feed the chipper. Keep them a safe distance away! Remember, the chipper doesn't think on its own. You have to do the thinking for it. Do not give up that responsibility.

On disc chippers, one side of the feed table is used to feed brush, usually the right side. On many occasions, the brush will have a tendency while being fed into the chipper to slam hard left. Be aware of this possibility. Feed from the correct side so that the hydraulic transfer valve is handy. If a problem occurs, you can disengage the feed wheels.

Maintenance and Training

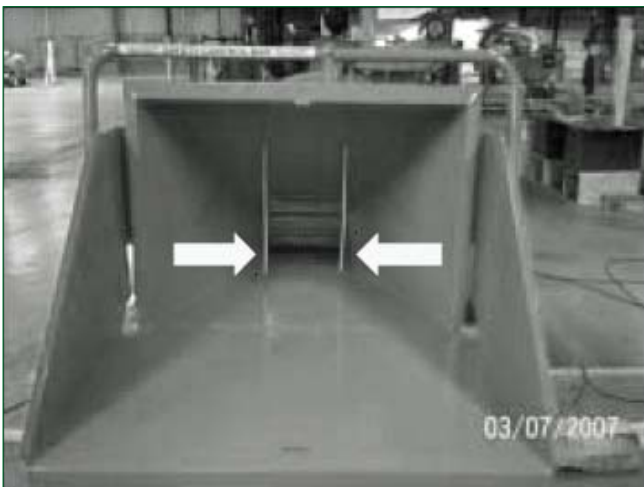
Chipper maintenance is also very important – an unmaintained chipper is a dangerous chipper. Check the oil and water levels daily. Use a back pack blower to clean the chipper off after use. Make sure that the radiator is clean and functioning properly, to avoid overheating.

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Wood Chipper Safety (*continued*)

Knives should be kept sharp. Bed knives should be rotated or sharpened when worn. Keep the gap between the knives and the bed knife as close to the manufacturer specifications as possible. Have the machine serviced at the manufacturer's recommended intervals. Grease the chipper as recommended. You will get years of service from a well-maintained chipper with sharp and properly adjusted knives. Maintenance is an investment that pays you dividends. Be sure you are properly trained before using any machine, but especially a chipper. If you do not feel you are adequately trained, say so – do not work with the machine until you are comfortable. Do not fear the chipper but do respect it. Ask your boss if you have any questions – if he or she gives you a hard time, remember this – it is easier to get a new boss than it is a new arm or a new leg.

Always, above all, think!! And, if you retain only three words from this article, they should be “SAFETY, SAFETY, SAFETY”. Thank you.



The top photo illustrates the feed control bar and the panic bar on a chipper, while the bottom photo shows the last chance cables, also known as emergency pull ropes. These pictures are from the OSHA Safety and Health Information Bulletin on Wood Chippers: <https://www.osha.gov/dts/shib/shib041608.html>

Accident Statistics Regarding Wood Chippers: A study by the Center for Disease Control found 31 deaths due to wood chippers for the years 1992-2002, with 68% occurring from someone being pulled into the chipper. The study also reported 2,042 injuries, with 60% of those being to the upper extremities. In the years 1992-96, 155 of the injuries were amputations. The OSHA Bulletin mentioned above provides similar numbers, with there being 39 fatalities from 1996-2005. Go to: www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5348a2.htm

The OSHA Quick Card on Chipper Safety

OSHA has produced a series of "Quick Cards" relating to safe workplace practices. These cards are designed to be easily printed and displayed. The on-line link for this safety card is: https://www.osha.gov/Publications/chipper_machine.html

Chipper machines cut tree limbs into small chips. Hazards arise when workers get too close to, or make contact with, the chipper. Contact with chipper operating components (blades, discs or knives) may result in amputation or death. Workers may also be injured by material thrown from the machine. To minimize these hazards, use appropriate engineering and work practice controls, including worker training.

Hazards

- Workers making contact with or being pulled into the chipper.
- Hearing loss.
- Face, eye, head or hand injuries.

Safe Work Practices

- Never reach into a chipper while it is operating.
- Do not wear loose-fitting clothing around a chipper.
- Always follow the manufacturer's guidelines and safety instructions.
- Use earplugs, safety glasses, hard hats and gloves.
- Workers should be trained on the safe operation of chipper machines. Always supervise new workers using a chipper to ensure that they work safely and never endanger themselves or others.
- Protect yourself from contacting operating chipper components by guarding the infeed and discharge ports, and preventing the opening of the access covers or doors until the drum or disc completely stops.
- Prevent detached trailer chippers from rolling or sliding on slopes by chocking the trailer wheels.
- Maintain a safe distance (i.e., two tree or log lengths) between chipper operations and other work/workers.
- When servicing and/or maintaining chipping equipment (i.e., "unjamming") use a lockout system to ensure that the equipment is de-energized.

Arborist Business Registration (*continued*)

opportunity no longer exists – there is no ‘single applicator’ exemption for arborist businesses.

In general, though, most arborists and others in tree care are unclear as to what benefit comes to them from having these new requirements.

Mostly, there seems to be an overall lack of awareness regarding this change in the arborist law. For example, an informal survey by an intern within the DEEP Pesticide Management Program of tree care services advertised either on the web or in print showed that many tree care companies have not yet registered as arborist businesses.

Why was this Change Made?

DEEP sought passage of the arborist business registration largely to help correct a mismatch between the arborist licensing provisions and the way that tree care is actually done in the state. In virtually all cases, it is an individual who becomes licensed as an arborist, and so it is these arborists, as individuals, who are authorized under the statute to “advertise, solicit or contract” to do arboriculture. However, in the vast majority of cases, the client does not enter into a contract with an individual but with a company.

While that might sound like a minor bureaucratic problem, it actually makes enforcing the arborist license much more difficult. Previous to the business registration requirement, companies did not need to indicate whether they had a licensed arborist on board. DEEP had to work that much harder to determine whether or not there was a licensed arborist on staff when the work was being sold and when it was being conducted. Plus, it was easy to hide the facts from a potential customer. How much effort is a customer willing to go through to verify the credentials of a company when there is no official database to refer to? Where does one go to learn whether a specific company has a properly licensed arborist on board?

The business registration changes all of that. Now, inspectors can simply look up a company and see if it is registered and has a designated licensed arborist who works for it. This is true, whether they are learning about a company from an ad, a contract or a customer complaint. Verification is simple, with false statements having the potential to be the basis of serious fines.

It should be noted that, as DEEP sees this law, it not only helps them in going after unlicensed tree workers and companies that cheat; it also puts DEEP in a better position to identify who is responsible when there are reports of poor quality tree work. This does happen occasionally. DEEP has always made the point that the arborist law is not the arborist-protection law. As a state agency, it has a duty to the citizens of Connecticut at large, and not just to the group it regulates.

What is CTPA 's Position?

CTPA supported this bill when it was first proposed and still supports it now that it is in law. However, in the process of going from proposed bill to law, a key provision was left out. CTPA is strongly encouraging that this provision be restored.

This key provision has to do with the requirement for each registered arborist business to display its business registration number (the so-called “b-number”). As originally discussed, the arborist business registration was to mirror the pesticide business registration. The law creating that registration requires that each pesticides business “... display the registration number assigned to it by the commissioner on the body of any motor vehicle used by it in the course of business, in any newspaper advertisement for the business, on any billboard advertisement for the business, and in any advertisement for the business placed in the generally circulated telephone directory. Any such business shall further include the number in any written contract it enters into for provision of pesticide application services.” (CGS 22a-66c(d)).

If this provision were to be restored, it would be a great help in identifying companies that do not comply with the arborist law. Simply by looking at a tree care company’s truck, anyone – from potential customer to competing arborist to DEEP inspector – could determine whether or not that company is following the law. Of course, a company could be fraudulent in its use of the b-number, but then that becomes another issue.

The Final Word

The bottom line from all of this is that CTPA encourages all arborist businesses to learn about and comply with the provisions of the arborist business registration requirement. In the long run, the provisions will help legitimate arborist businesses by making it easier for those companies to be identified, as well as easier for DEEP to go after those individuals and companies that disregard the law.

Additionally, CTPA encourages DEEP and the Legislature to correct the omission that currently exists in the business registration provisions of the arborist law. The arborist business registration should have the same display requirements for the b-number as exist for the pesticide business registration. CTPA encourages its members to alert their legislators as to this gap in the current law.

Please Note: The CTPA Workshop Series on "Arboriculture and Communication" has been canceled. The sessions scheduled for November 19th and December 4th will not take place on those dates.

Upcoming Events



For many reasons, tree care requires constant attention to safety. This includes safety around electrical wires.

CTPA to Hold an Electrical Hazard (EHAP) Workshop on Thursday, November 5th

Anyone in Connecticut who works in trees should have a detailed knowledge of the hazards that arise from working near electricity - often called the 'silent killer'. In early November, CTPA will host an Electrical Hazard Awareness Program (EHAP). This all day workshop will cover the basic elements of electrical awareness and safety. Details are available on the CTPA web site - www.CTPA.org.

CTPA Annual Meeting - January 21, 2016

Planning is underway for CTPA's Annual Meeting, to be held at the Aqua Turf. Flyers will be mailed soon to both exhibitors and attendees. Stay tuned!

CTPA
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The Application Period is Open for the 2016 Arborist Scholarship

Applications are now available for the 2016 Arborist Scholarship. College students working towards a degree in either arboriculture or urban forestry are invited to apply for this \$2,000 award. Two scholarships are being offered this year.

Since its inception in 2001, CTPA has presented 25 Arborist Scholarships to students who, in most cases, have gone on to become professionals active in tree care. The CTPA Board looks forward to reviewing this year's applications. The 2016 recipients will be announced at the Annual Meeting in January. Details as to how to apply for the Arborist Scholarship are on the CTPA web site. Please contact the CTPA office or Scholarship Chair Ken Bullard.



In 2006, then Scholarship Chair Don Parrott presented the Arborist Scholarships to Ryan Roberts and Daniel Watkins. CTPA is seeking applicants for this year.