

TOOLBOX TALK

44. WORKING AROUND TREES & HEDGEROWS

What?

- Trees and hedgerows are an important part of the environment and countryside. Many are protected by legislation enforced by the local authority.
- They provide a vitally important habitat for wildlife, providing shelter and corridors for insects, amphibians, mammals and birds.



Why?



- It is illegal to cut down or wilfully damage trees protected by law under a Tree Preservation Order, trees in a conservation area or to pull up certain countryside hedges, except with the consent of the local planning authority. You should also be mindful of disturbing nesting birds as they are protected by law.
- Damaged trees can present a health and safety concern as they
 may become unstable and kill or injure people or animals. Trees
 can be damaged by compaction of roots and other damage to the
 root system, by pollution and through impact by machines.

Do 🗸

- ☑ Check with the leader before felling any trees. Are you signed off as being competent to do it?
- ☑ Ensure machinery is not used near to trees
- Store all fuels and oils and other potential pollutants away from root systems.
- Hand dig only around root systems



Don't X

- Don't undertake tree felling or hedgerow clearance without permissions in place
- Never undertake tree felling or hedgerow work during the bird nesting season (1st March 31st August).



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