



Arborist falls from tree

A report has recently been received where an arborist fell approximately 3 metres to the ground while manoeuvring within a tree. He was given first aid at the site and taken for a check-up before returning to work with a few grazes. The team was stood down for the rest of the day.

The operative has suitable NPTC/City and Guilds competencies including chainsaw, tree climbing, aerial rescue, tree cutting/free fall techniques to undertake various types of vegetation and tree works.

The investigation found that he had accidentally clipped onto a plastic tool clip rather than the metal D-ring on his harness. The plastic clip is not sufficiently load bearing and failed resulting in a fall. Shortly before the incident the operative had been working at 6 metres in the tree. The consequences would have been much more serious if the mistake had occurred at this height.



Petzl Cari-tool

Learning points – as suggested by the employing business

1. Ensure that climbers only have clips/karabiners attached to their harnesses that are sufficiently rated to take their full weight
2. Prohibit use of plastic tool clips – mandate fully rated metal karabiners as alternative

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3. Remind climbing operatives to check they are properly clipped in and secure before releasing from their previous anchor points.

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