

LESSONS LEARNED FROM LOSSES

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2021

TREE OPS SAFETY



- ENSURE ONLY QUALIFIED PERSONNEL DIRECT TREE RELATED OPERATIONS AND THAT THEY IMMEDIATELY CORRECT ANY IDENTIFIED HAZARD OR IMPROPER WORK PRACTICES.
- WORKERS INVOLVED IN TREE RELATED OPERATIONS MUST BE GIVEN INSTRUCTION AS TO ALL HAZARDS RELATED TO THE WORK INCLUDING FALL PREVENTION, METHODS OF COMMUNICATION, FIRST AID AND CPR, ROADWAY SAFETY, ELECTROCUTION PREVENTION AND OTHER RESCUE PROCEDURES.
- BE AWARE OF SURROUNDINGS SUCH AS DEBRIS, TRIPPING HAZARDS, FALLING LIMBS AND POWER LINES IN WHICH THE ASSUMPTION SHOULD BE MADE THAT IT IS A LIVE WIRE.
- **WEAR ALL APPLICABLE PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT.**

EXAMPLE: The claimant was picking up tree branches after Tropical Storm Isaias in early August of 2020 and was hit on the head by a falling limb that fell from 25-35 feet. He was not wearing a hard hat. He was knocked unconscious and fell forward onto face knocking out three teeth. He suffered a deep laceration on his head, a concussion, a fractured cervical vertebrae, fractured shoulder blade and a fractured wrist. He is still suffering from short term memory loss, impairment and dizziness. The total incurred on the loss is approaching \$400,000.