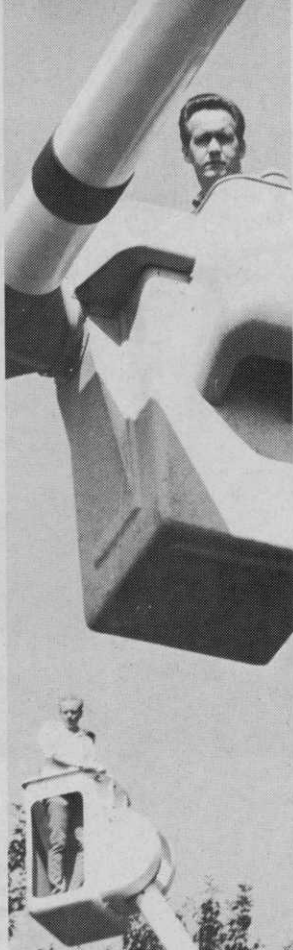


Florida  
Tree Company  
Suggests  
Method of . . .

## Bucket Operator Rescue



*EDITOR'S NOTE: Staff members of Farrens Tree Surgeons, Jacksonville, Fla., have developed a procedure for rescuing a worker who comes in contact with high voltage lines. The technique has since been modified and adopted by the Florida Industrial Commission. Gerald E. Farrens, vice-president of Farrens and of Sepsco Services, Inc., reported the procedure to the National Arborist Association meeting in February. We felt the method deserved wider dissemination. Following is the procedure:*

### SAFE PRACTICES AND RESCUE

- 1.** All wires should be considered energized at all times. The operator should never touch the wires with his person, tools, or any part of the boom. If the work is sufficiently close to the wires to constitute a hazard, then request the utility to cover conductors in the immediate work area.
- 2.** Do not touch, mount or dismount, or allow employees or the public to contact the truck body or chipper when operating the unit near conductors.
- 3.** Only authorized and competent personnel are permitted to operate the unit. The foreman is advised to have at least one additional person familiar with the controls in the event the operator must be removed from the danger area.
- 4.** Before going aloft, the operator should make a complete survey of overhead conditions to familiarize himself with the location of lines, poles, buildings, tree limbs, guys, or other obstructions which might present a hazard to the operation.
- 5.** Keep bucket upper and lower boom away from wires. In some states, it is illegal to operate

any device within six feet of energized wires.

**6.** If contact is accidentally established between the boom and a power wire or charged telephone wire, strand, or cable, always bear in mind that the entire truck and its contents may become electrically charged. If this happens, break contact immediately, or, if not possible to do so, alert everyone on the ground not to attempt to enter or leave the truck or touch any part of it while on the ground.

**7.** Should a bucket operator become unconscious due to contact with energized wires or tree parts, you must assume that the entire truck, as well as the ground in the vicinity of the outriggers, is also energized.

**8.** To gain quick access to the controls and minimize personal danger in lowering the victim, take a running start and jump onto the running board of the truck from at least six feet away, grasping the west coast mirror frame with your hands. Make certain you do not touch the truck and ground at the same time. Where it is not practical to jump on a running board, jump on the chipper from at least six feet away and move over the truck body to the controls.

**9.** Once on the truck, move quickly to the controls, lower the bucket and victim away from the energized wires and to the ground (as an alternative, remain on the truck and manipulate an outrigger).

**10.** Remove the victim from the bucket and lay him on his back in a position to administer mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and closed chest heart message. Clear the victim's mouth and tilt his head back to clear the air passages. If the victim does not breathe, seal his mouth with your lips, hold his nostrils closed and blow in breaths strong enough to cause his chest to rise, at the rate of 12 times per minute. If for any reason it is not possible to remove the victim from the bucket immediately, mouth-to-mouth resuscitation should not be delayed but should be administered while the victim is being removed.

**11.** Check the victim's pulse for a heartbeat by pressing two fingers lightly along the windpipe. If the victim has no pulse, it will be necessary to administer heart message in conjunction with mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. To administer closed chest heart-massage, locate and place the heel of one hand on the lower half of the breastbone. With the other hand on top, apply sufficient pressure to depress the lower half of the breastbone 2½" at the rate of 60 times per minute or five times between breath blown into the victim's lungs.

**12.** As soon as possible, summon medical assistance. Send a crew member for help while others administer heart message and mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

**13.** Steps 3, 4, and 5 will be practiced at least once each month. Steps 6 and 7 will be explained in conjunction with practice. Each new employee will become proficient in mounting the truck and lowering the bucket, steps 3 and 4, on the first day of his employment.