



Put saddle on and uncoil climbing rope. Place it on the ground under the tree so it will not tangle. Notice safety line is attached to left side of saddle. Author is pictured here.



Tie throw knot to end of rope. Wind rope around snaffle hook until it forms a firm ball.



Coil rope in hand and throw it over the second lowest limb from tree's base. This permits you to stand on the lowest branch when you pull yourself into the tree. Roll rope over the limb until you can reach the ball. Untie ball and tie end to saddle. FROM HERE ON ALWAYS STAY TIED IN.

18 Steps To Safe Tree Climbing

By **LARRY HOLKENBORG**
Arborist
Sandusky, Ohio

Foreman helps pull climber into tree. If you use a ladder, place bottom two feet away from tree for every ten feet of height. Secure ladder at top and bottom.



Step into first crotch as soon as possible. Unsnap safety line from saddle, wrap it around tree trunk and snap it to saddle again.



Untie or unsnap climbing line from saddle. Make another ball in the end of the line and throw it over a higher limb. Repeat steps 2, 3, & 5 until you reach the top of the tree. Always have the safety line or climbing line fastened to you and the tree.



7

Ground man holds tail of the rope in a tree that is easy to climb. Wind around tree so your rope will hang over a limb. Ground man can hold you in the tree if you should slip.

With each move higher in tree, ground man assists in pulling climber to desired position. Note here that the ground man should keep alert for potential accidents.



8



9

Throw climbing line to branches within the capability of attaining on one climb. Don't try to climb to the top in one or two steps.



10

Tie in at the top on a sound crotch which will hold you in the tree. Avoid tight crotches. They bind the rope and hinder free movement. Look for a sound four inch upright branch and a two inch side branch. Put rope around the larger limb.



11

Ground man holds climbing rope until climber is tied in.



12

Top crotch should be selected from the ground before climbing. Keep near the center of tree and away from utility wires. Use a taut-line hitch to tie into tree. Set in saddle slowly to test hitch. Be sure it is tight enough.



13

Pull knot and it will let you down gradually. Here climber is swinging to outside limb. He is in complete control. Should a fall occur, get your feet in front of you.



14

Literally out on a limb, climber walks to work point. Close inspection of photo will show that safety rope is nearby and climbing line is still attached.



15

With safety rope around limb, climber signals ground man to send up chain saw. We carry saw on a rope attached to the belt. If dropped, saw will fall below feet.



16

During saw operation both safety and climbing lines are attached. Climber stands comfortably. Saw cuts are made with ease.



17

Coming down. Notice that the knot on the safety line is down. This prevents it from becoming tangled in the tree. Climber is free to move down tree with minimum of effort.



18

Stand in crotch of lowest limb and check to see if there is enough rope to reach the ground. Once on ground coil rope by pulling through top of tree. This pulls out twist in the rope and provides good time for rope inspection.