



ArborMaster Training combines climbing, rigging and cutting techniques from the logging and tree care industries.

Climbing higher... and safer!

Tim Crowley, owner of Crowley Landscaping, Marion, Mass., has been braving the many hazards of tree work for 10 years. Trained as a landscaper, he gained his tree care experience mostly by trial and error. He and his crews routinely did free climbs and cut improper hinges, two of the biggest dangers in tree care.

Crowley now admits that during the early part of his career, he didn't have the proper tools or specialized knowledge to keep him and his colleagues safe.

The ArborMaster Training Program—with its emphasis on safety and efficiency—changed the way Crowley conducts his landscape business, at least the tree work part of it.

ArborMaster Training teaches anyone who deals with trees the essentials for success: skill, safety and productivity. The program combines climbing, rigging and cutting techniques taken from logging and tree care industries.

Safety often left to chance

Tree work can be hazardous work, and is not something to be learned solely by trial and error.

The National Safety Council says the major hazards to anyone who deals with tree maintenance include:

- ▶ falls from trees
 - ▶ contact with electrified limbs
 - ▶ trees and branches falling on workers
 - ▶ faulty work methods
 - ▶ high-speed power equipment.
- (The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission says that each year, 40,000 chain saw injuries require emergency care.)

- ▶ noise from the machinery

"I think back to all of the brittle trees we took down and how lucky we are not to have been hurt," says Crowley co-worker Timothy Nickerson.

At the ArborMaster training program, Crowley worked with arborists, utility crew and tree maintenance workers in three, one-day sessions. Each

of the course's three days are separated by several weeks, to allow students to absorb and practice the lessons of the previous session.

"The three-level program teaches strong foundational skills, so it can be tailored to individual needs," Palmer says.

More landscapers have become involved in the program as more customers prefer one company to do the majority of work on their property, Palmer says.

Crowley says risk to himself and his employees have been minimized, thanks to ArborMaster. He and his employees also wear uniform safety apparel and follow safety procedures closely.

He's now a firm believer and follower of the "HOPE" system. HOPE is an acronym for—Hazards, Obstacles, Pre-plan and Equipment.

Crowley says ArborMaster Training gave him a new professional attitude.

"Before, he felt like he was missing something, not doing the job the best possible way," Nickerson says of Crowley. The training has also given him added confidence. **LM**

—For more information on ArborMaster Training, call (770) 419-2026; or write P.O. Box 1048, Hiram GA 30141-1048.