

Modification history

Release	Comments
Release 1	This version released with FWP Forest and Wood Products Training Package Version 6.0.

FWPCOT3XXX	Operate a pole saw
Application	<p>This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to use a fuel or battery powered pole saw with telescopic extension to cut and trim tree branches within safe height and angle limits.</p> <p>The unit applies to individuals who operate pole saws to trim tree branches as part of arboriculture, forestry, agriculture, conservation and land management, local government, emergency services and other government agency operations.</p> <p>All work must be carried out to comply with workplace procedures, according to state/territory health and safety regulations, legislation and standards that apply to the workplace.</p> <p>No licensing, legislative or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication.</p>
Prerequisite Unit	Nil
Unit Sector	Common Technical (COT)

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
1. Prepare for trimming	1.1 Review work order or instruction to determine job requirements and, where required, seek clarification from appropriate personnel 1.2 Review workplace health and safety procedures, including the use of personal protective equipment, equipment lock-out and safe manual handling techniques 1.3 Identify, assess and take actions to mitigate risks and hazards associated with using pole saw to trim branches 1.4 Identify workplace environmental protection procedures for minimising and disposing of waste material, recycling and reusing materials and cleaning tools and equipment 1.5 Consult with team members and other appropriate personnel to ensure that work is coordinated effectively with others in the workplace 1.6 Obtain pole saw and other support equipment needed for the work and check for correct operation and safety 1.7 Conduct pre-start up checks of pole saw to determine serviceability according to manufacturer instructions 1.8 Plan trimming activities according to workplace procedures.
2. Assess trees	2.1 Identify and assess tree type, location and stability for safe working conditions 2.2 Plan trim of tree according to workplace procedures and environmental conditions 2.3 Identify trees unable to be trimmed safely and refer to supervisor 2.4 Identify hazards in immediate vicinity of the tree to be trimmed and refer to supervisor 2.5 Determine whether the height of branches to be trimmed is within safe reach and safe working angle when using the pole saw 2.6 Establish general falling direction of branches to be trimmed and identify clear escape routes

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
3. Trim trees	3.1 Trim accessible branches within safe height and angle limits according to work order or instructions and manufacturer recommendations 3.2 Monitor location and movement of people in work area to ensure work site is safe 3.3 Undertake sequence of cuts to trim tree branches 3.4 Operate pole saw according to workplace procedures and manufacturer instructions, adjusting technique in response to condition of the tree 3.5 Identify unexpected tree characteristics during trimming operations and review tree assessment if required 3.6 Complete cutting once initiated to minimise splitting 3.7 Clear cut branches from the site according to workplace procedures and environmental requirements 3.8 Record and report trimming activity
4. Conduct operator maintenance	4.1 Follow workplace safety procedures and manufacturer instructions to lock out equipment 4.2 Inspect condition of pole saw and other equipment on completion of trimming activities 4.3 Clear pole saw of dust, shavings and debris and check for serviceability 4.4 Remove, sharpen, adjust or replace chain and other components according to manufacturer recommendations 4.5 Recycle, re-use or dispose of blunt or damaged chain and other components according to workplace procedures and environmental requirements 4.6 Record and report equipment faults and maintenance activity

Foundation Skills	
<i>This section describes those language, literacy, numeracy and employment skills that are essential for performance in this unit of competency but are not explicit in the performance criteria.</i>	
Skill	Description
Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read workplace documentation and understand requirements
Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete basic written records for pole saw operations, equipment faults and maintenance requirements
Oral communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask open and closed probing questions and actively listen to clarify contents of work plans
Numeracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan time-efficient cutting patterns and sequences

Unit Mapping Information			
Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
FWPCOT3XXX Operate a pole saw	FWPCOT3238 Operate a pole saw		

Links	Companion Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=0d96fe23-5747-4c01-9d6f-3509ff8d3d47
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TITLE	Assessment requirements for FWPCOT3XXX Operate a pole saw
Performance Evidence	
<p>An individual demonstrating competency must satisfy all of the elements and performance criteria in this unit.</p> <p>There must be evidence that the individual has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • assessed, planned and conducted the trimming of the accessible branches of six trees within safe height and angle limits using a pole saw following a work order or instruction that is consistent with workplace policy and procedures and current workplace health and safety legislation, regulations and related industry standards and codes of practice • inspected and carried out routine operator maintenance on one pole saw on one occasion, including removing, sharpening and adjusting the chain, according to manufacturer requirements. 	
Knowledge Evidence	
<p>An individual must be able to demonstrate the knowledge required to perform the tasks outlined in the elements and performance criteria of this unit. This includes knowledge of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • types and components of pole saws • uses of pole saws • procedures for pole saw operations • risks and hazards associated with trimming trees with a pole saw • characteristics of trees and timber defects • trimming sequence and cutting techniques • safe height and angle limits for pole saw use • criteria for assessing condition of pole saw chain • procedures for removing, sharpening, adjusting or replacing chain saw chain and other components • established communication channels and protocols • problem identification and resolution strategies • fault finding techniques • procedures for recording and reporting workplace information. 	
Assessment Conditions	
<p>Assessment of the skills in this unit of competency must take place under the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • physical conditions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • skills must be demonstrated in a workplace location or an environment that accurately represents workplace conditions • resources, equipment and materials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an industry standard fuel or battery powered pole saw • tools and equipment used to maintain pole saws • consumable pole saw parts, oil and fuel • personal protective equipment required in pole saw operations • specifications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • access to work order or instruction detailing trimming activities to be carried out by operator • access to workplace policies and procedures which cover current Work Health and Safety Acts or Occupation Health and Safety Acts, regulations and related industry standards and codes of practice applicable to use of pole saws for trimming branches • access to workplace policies and procedures which cover off on current Environment Protection Acts, regulations and related industry standards and codes of practice applicable to use of pole saws for trimming branches • access to workplace safety and environmental protection plans • access to site emergency procedure • access to workplace standard operating procedures or operator manual for pole saws. <p>Assessors of this unit must satisfy the requirements for assessors in applicable vocational education and training legislation, frameworks and/or standards.</p>	

Links	Companion Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=0d96fe23-5747-4c01-9d6f-3509ff8d3d47
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