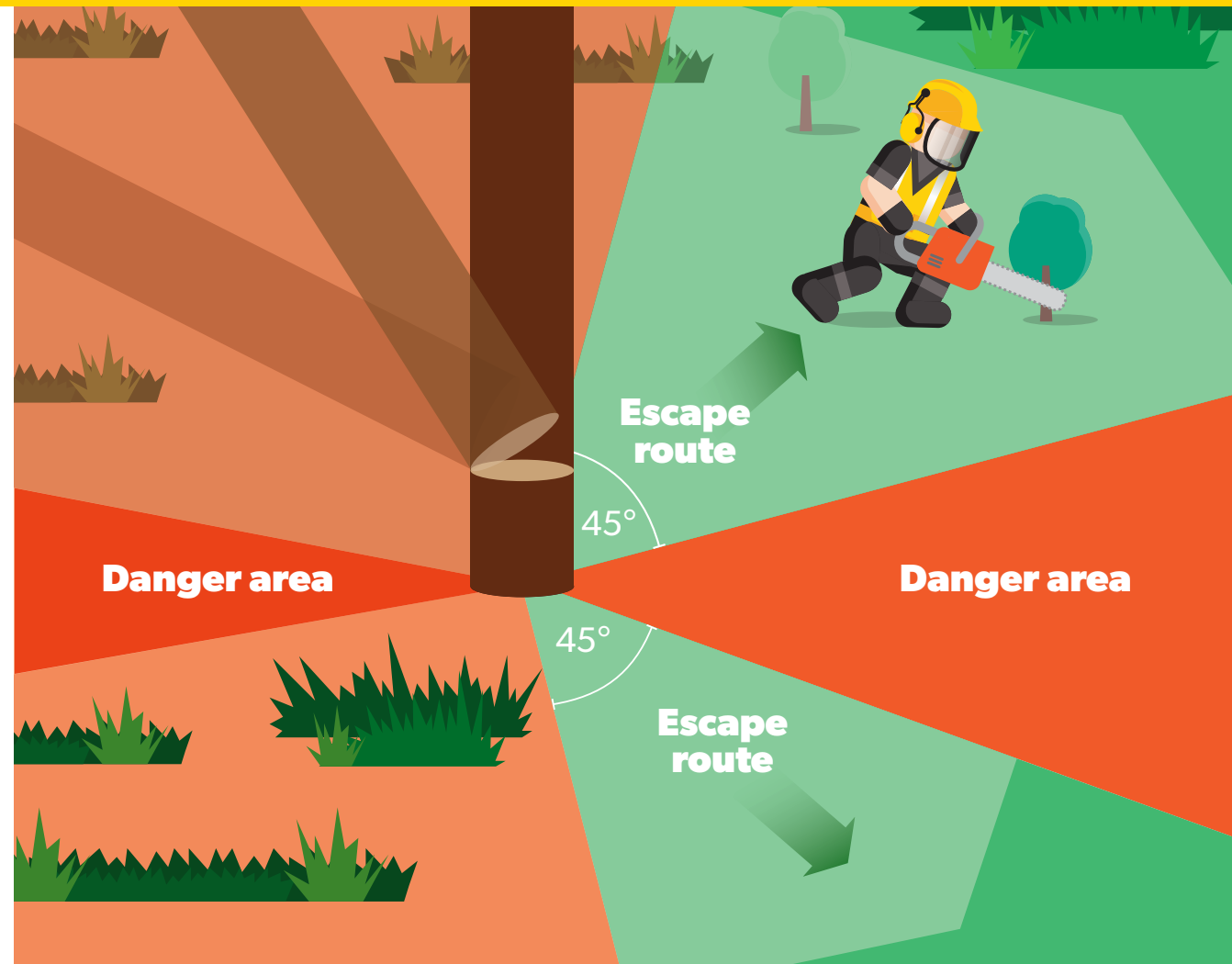


The five step felling plan

- 1** Assess the site
- 2** Assess the tree
- 3** Prepare work area and escape route
- 4** Use the correct, safe felling techniques
- 5** Retreat and look up!



The five step felling plan

You must carry out each step of the five step felling plan to do the job safely and properly.

1 Assess the site

- Assess the stand for hazards – the terrain, roads, tracks, other operations, powerlines.
- Wind strength and direction – will it affect safety?

2 Assess the tree

- Any defects? Rotting wood, heavy lean, interlocked branches, debris in branches, dead tops.
- Soil very wet or dry? Could that affect stability?

- Falling direction? What could the tree hit as it falls? Which way will you escape?
- If you can fell it safely, decide which cuts to use.

3 Prepare work area and escape route

- Clear around the base of the tree – leave no vegetation or obstacles.
- Plan your escape route – ideally 45 degrees behind the tree.

4 Use the correct, safe felling techniques

- Over 200mm at the stump? Always use a scarf and back cut.
- Work out the lean. How many wedges do you need? Need machine assistance?

5 Retreat and look up!

- Finish cut on the safe side of the tree. **Use your escape route as soon as the tree begins to fall.**
- Watch out for kick back, butt swing or bounce, anything falling or being flicked back.
- Don't walk directly behind the tree.

If anything looks unsafe, stop felling, reassess, and consider getting help.