

Thinning

- Always follow the two tree length rule
- Use the right felling techniques for the tree and environment
- Have the right gear – maintain it well
- Know your emergency procedures



Thinning

Trees to be thinned are smaller than trees to be felled, but this work can still cause serious injuries.

Always follow the two tree length rule

- Make sure you're not within two tree lengths of anyone working near you.
- Take breaks and eat well so you manage any risks of fatigue, because fatigue makes it harder to judge distances.

Use the right felling techniques for the tree and environment

- Follow the five step felling plan.
- Check for hazards caused by felling into standing trees.

Have the right gear – maintain it well

- Make sure you have all the PPE you need for the day, including hi-viz gear, a first aid kit and a cellphone or RT.
- Your chainsaw must be sharp with a well-fitting chain, and with all parts of it working well.
- Activate any 'man down' technology – like a motion detector or an RT that sends an alarm if the thinner doesn't move for a set time.

Know your emergency procedures

- At least two people must be on site during thinning.
- Have agreed check-in procedures – check-in at regular times and know what to do if the other person doesn't respond.