Almond Tree Shaking

Safe Operating Procedures | Almond farms | English transcript

General information only. Your host will provide the exact site procedure, machine instructions, PPE requirements and practical training before you start work. This video does not authorise equipment operation.

0:04 Before you start

This video provides general information for workers on almond farms. Before you start work, your host employer will explain the exact safe operating procedure, machine instructions and personal protective equipment required at your site. This video supports training. It does not replace practical training, assessment, supervisor sign-off or a training record. English is the authoritative version.

0:39 Step 1

Pre-start/safety meeting

Potential risk.

Employees not aware of traffic management requirements may lead to serious collision resulting in injury to operator and damage to equipment

Poor communication when machinery is moved from block to block

Employees with language barriers may not understand traffic management plans

Employees taking short cuts through headlands may lead to collisions resulting in injury to employees and damage to equipment

Risk treatment.

Employees MUST attend morning pre-starts in front of the orchard activity board

host employer management MUST communicate traffic routes before the start of each shift

Equipment specific supervisors MUST reiterate traffic management plans to their teams

If there are language barriers an interpreter MUST be used to communicate traffic management requirements

If traffic management changes throughout the day host employer management and supervisors are responsible for communicating changes to employees and updating the orchard activity board.

1:52 Step 2

Training and Safety

Potential risk.

Workers unsure of the process may lead to unwanted events which may result in injury, fatality or damage to equipment

Risk treatment.

At the end of this training which includes the practical component if you are unsure of the process do not proceed contact your Supervisor and the Orchard Manager immediately

If at any time during this process you feel unsafe you are authorised and expected to stop

Contact your Supervisor and the Orchard Manager immediately

2:33 Step 3

Complete daily Shaker checklist

Potential risk.

Machinery breakdown of shaker.

Injury to shaker operator.

Risk treatment.

Any adjustment changes must be reported to the Supervisor.

Adjustments are to be completed by the supervisor in conjunction with the maintenance department.

Leave shaker shut down whilst doing checks.

When completing checks ensure Shaker is isolated.

Ensure all controls and seating are adjusted for support and comfort.

Confirm correct channel and complete UHF

radio check

During training ensure operators understand how to make adjustments of controls and seating.

Equipment supervisor must monitor pre-start operation

Pre-start checks must be documented.

3:32 Step 4

Start the Shaker

Potential risk.

Accidents because of slow operation of cold hydraulic systems. Injuries to operator because of slow operation of cold hydraulic systems.

Risk treatment.

Turn to accessories,engage machine brake switch, start engine at idle speed and allow five minutes warm up time

All warm up activities Must be completed in a designated area in a near by area to the workshop

Assist warm up by operating all hydraulic systems prior to shaking trees.

4:11 Step 5

Test operation of Shaker head and silicon

Potential risk.

Barking damage to trees.

Risk treatment.

Extend shaker head and operate system several times to unstick and lubricate pads.

Supervisors must monitor quality of shaking on a regular basis.

4:32 Step 6

Travel to work area

Potential risk.

Traffic accidents.

Speeding accidents.

Damage to machine and operator.

Damage to irrigation infrastructure.

Risk treatment.

You MUST be aware of the daily site traffic management plan

Be aware of travel surface and look out for wash outs, bog holes, uneven ground and irrigation infrastructure.

Travel at safe speed, adhering to any traffic management signs and giving way to all operating machinery.

Travelling in Convoy is highly recommended to prevent accidents

Maintain a minimum 4 tree distance when travelling to and from work areas

Discuss any known obstacles in work area with the supervisor before the start of the day’s work.

Cast vision along tree rows for structures and plan accordingly.

When exiting rows always assume another piece of equipment might be travelling through the headland

5:35 Step 7

Lubrication pump, brushes and lights

Potential risk.

Barking damage to trees. Burying of almond nuts under tyre tracks.

Risk treatment.

Switch on control of Lubrication pump and check operation.

Switch on control of brushes and check operation.

Switch on lights

6:00 Step 8

Shaking trees

Potential risk.

Barking damage to trees.

Impact damage to machine

Risk treatment.

Carefully approach tree, extend shaker head at correct angle to tree below crown and engage shake.

When shaker head returns, travel slowly to the next tree and repeat operation until all systems are at optimum operating temperatures.

Supervisors must monitor quality of shaking on a regular basis.

6:33 Step 9

Painting a Wounded Tree

Potential risk.

Injury to operator Damage to machine or infrastructure Damage to trees

Risk treatment.

When a tree has been barked Stop in a safe location away from the tree Ensure Shaker Revs return to idle Engage Park Brake Communicate via the UHF that you are exiting the vehicle to paint a barked tree Check to ensure there is no other machinery nearby before exiting Exit the vehicle with the Steri-prune paint can Use the Steri-prune spray to cover the wound completely Return to the vehicle and recommence route.

7:15 Step 10

Rotating Shaker pads and greasing

Potential risk.

Overheating and damage to shaker pads.

Damage to trees

Excessive machinery wear and breakdown through lack of lubrication.

Maintenance personnel exposed to grease and oils.

Risk treatment.

Pull Shaker up on level ground and apply the park brake.

Disengage all functions.

Fully retract Shaker boom

Ensure shaker boom is in the horizontal position before exiting the Shaker.

Rotate,swap out pads and grease points on the shaker head

Never have any body part under the Shaker arm when rotating pads

Ensure no other workers are in or near the Shaker when rotation is in progress.

Rotate Shaker pads 1/2 a turn every 1 hour

Swap out shaker pads every 2 hours

Operators to grease Shaker head grease points every 2 hours.

Operators must report shaker head concerns immediately.

Where gloves and positive sealed eye protection at all times when greasing and changing/rotating shaker pads

If exposed to oils and grease wash affected body parts.

NOTE: No one is authorised to be in the Shaker when pads are being changed /rotated or greasing is being undertaken.

8:47 Step 11

End of shift routine maintenance

Potential risk.

Eye injuries from using compressed air and /or pressure washer

Chemical splashes in eyes.

Bites from spiders.

Pinch points.

Burns on hot areas.

Cross contamination of putting fluids in wrong tank

Risk treatment.

At the end of the work period, clean down machine of leaves and nuts at the end of the completed row.

Blow down machine to remove excess dirt, dust and nuts.

Re-fill lubricant tank with water and appropriate amount of lubricant.

Different model Shakers require different amounts of lubricant.

Contact the site Maintenance Controller for correct lubricant level

Refill Shaker with diesel ready for the oncoming shift

Check machine for silicon and oil leaks and report any issues to maintenance.

Operator is responsible checking and replacing slings,donuts and clamp bars.

Always wear positive sealed safety goggles with strap when using compressed air.

Wear other appropriate PPE such as riggers gloves, hearing protection long sleeves, long trousers.

Isolate the equipment at the end of shift

10:14 Qualifications and experience

Qualifications and experience.

All employees/ workers must be trained, hold relevant licenses, and be assessed as competent before operating any equipment on host employer sites. there must be safety induction records with the workers' name on the records. where licenses are required a copy of this must be on site file or personal file.

10:42 Duties and responsibilities

Duties and responsibilities.

All employees/ workers must adhere to host employer policies and procedures and report any concerns and incidents immediately to their manager/ supervisor. it is the responsibility of both host employer onsite management and contractor companies to identify language barriers and provide interpreters where required.

11:11 Training required

Training required.

All employees/ workers must have been inducted to the site and deemed competent in relevant Safe Operating Procedure and site traffic management plans. site managers must sign off all Safe Operating Procedure before employees/ worker start work on site or equipment. training should be completed by a competent person or training organization.

11:40 Codes of practice and legislation

Codes of practice and legislation.

All employees/ workers must adhere to codes of practice, standards and guideline, whs and ohs acts and regulations.

11:57 Plant, equipment and PPE

Plant, equipment and PPE.

Job specific protective personal equipment (ppe) must be identified and worn when required (i.e. positive sealed goggles with a strap when using compressed air). PPE is a shared responsibility between your host employer and Orchard Tech. Your host employer will provide the PPE required for your task. If the required PPE has not been supplied, stop work and contact Orchard Tech. workers to wear all outdoor ppe where required – wear positive sealed eye protection, gloves, hat, sunburn cream, steel capped boots, long sleeve shirts and long trousers. hi viz clothing must be worn at all times.

12:53 Maintenance checks

Maintenance checks.

If a vehicle, plant, equipment, or machinery is found to be defective or damaged, it must be tagged with 'out of service' tag until repaired and isolation register completed. daily pre-start/ pre-shift checks and post-checks if required are to be completed and recorded in all instances. maintenance teams are responsible for all maintenance on equipment. workers can only undertake maintenance if they have been adequately trained in the relevant process.

13:32 Before work starts

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