



# LAUSD-OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

## JOB SAFETY ANALYSIS USING AN AXE OR PULASKI AXE



**General Precautions:** Inspect equipment before each use.

### Required Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)\*

Work boots with non-skid soles, eye protection, appropriate gloves, safety vest.  
If cutting overhead, a hard hat must be worn.

### Required Training

Safe use of equipment, PPE

\*Additional training and PPE may be required depending on the scope of the activities to be performed with piece of equipment, including but not limited to eye and hand protection or electrical safety. All construction areas must be demarcated and barricaded.

TASK	HAZARDS	CONTROLS
1. Equipment inspection	Struck by Laceration Impalement	Make sure the handle is clean and free of cracks or splits and the head is securely fastened to the handle. Make sure the blade is sharp and free of burrs.
2. Transporting equipment	Impalement Laceration Struck-by	When transporting the tool in a vehicle make sure the tool is secured within the vehicle and will not become airborne in the event of a sudden stop. When not in use, protect the blade with a sheath, or other appropriate cover. When carrying, grasp the handle directly behind the head and carry it with the blade pointing down and away from the body. If traveling on a slope, carry axe/hatchet in your downhill hand. Never carry with the axe/hatchet blade on your shoulder. If transporting on a pack, place the blade down and facing back in case of a trip or fall.

	3. Preparing for work	Struck by Laceration Slips, Trips & Falls Impalement	Put on required PPE before using equipment. If working overhead, make sure to wear a hard hat. Use chaps for added protection. Clear work area to 10 feet of obstacles that could deflect the blade such as bushes or overhanging branches. Clear the work area of bark, limbs, or other items that could affect footing. Notify other workers in work area before swinging. Maintain safe distance from other workers. Anticipate wood chips flying long distances (> 20') when using an axe. Be sure that trees or logs to be chopped are secured and will not move when worked on. Be aware that the trees or logs that are suspended above the ground may shift and move unexpectedly or when worked on. Do not use the tool in unsafe conditions.
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	4. Operating equipment	Struck by Laceration Slips, Trips & Falls Impalement	Always swing away from your body and toward the cut. Be sure the swing follow through is not in line with legs or feet. Keep the striking angle of the blade perpendicular to the wood, to prevent glancing blows. Position feet firmly with weight distributed evenly. Maintain a firm grip on the handle. When limbing, stand with the tree trunk between you and the limb being cut. Follow manufactures recommendations for use and care of equipment.
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I have received, read and understood the contents of this JSA and have also acquired the aforementioned required training.

<b>NAME:</b>	
<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	
<b>JOB TITLE:</b>	
<b>EMPLOYEE ID:</b>	
<b>DATE:</b>	
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

For more information about this JSA, contact the *Office of Environment, Health and Safety* at LAUSD, 333 South Beaudry Avenue, 21<sup>st</sup> Floor, Los Angeles, CA-90017