



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
PRACTICUM STUDY GUIDE

REV. 12/31/25

***MAINTAINER 3 – TREE CLIMBER / AERIAL BUCKET***

**\*\*Initial Requirements: Fall Protection and Bucket certified; Posted Position; Interview**

**TEST FORMAT:**

**Written Test:** (25 questions). No more than seven wrong answers for passing grade.  
Time allotted – 25 minutes

***\*\*Candidate must pass each section to proceed to next section\*\****

**Knot Tying:** “Knots to know” on handout; Time allotted – 20 minutes

*[The sections below may or may not be on the same day as the Written and Knot Tying]*

**Climbing:** inspect climbing gear, inspect tree; set rope / climb to tie-in / reset tie-in higher in tree; climb to that position / lower self to a limb for walk out / demonstrate drop-catch and snap-cut  
Time allotted – TBD; candidates will be advised prior to starting the climb

**Bucket test:** pre-trip inspection of boom components only / position truck for work / controlled ascent-descent / set up timber hitch and port-a-wrap / perform (3) cuts: snap cut, drop-catch, and re-direct on selected branches; only one setup allowed to perform the work; cone placed below the tree – cannot hit the cone when cutting / lowering limbs  
Time allotted – TBD; candidate will be advised prior to starting the ascent

**Study Materials:** (2) handouts: “Equip. Required packet”, “Green Weight Log Chart”, “Tree Climber’s Companion book” (sign- out sheet)

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**Notes:** The pre-trip inspection applies to the aerial device only (not the truck itself); be thorough - develop a system for checking all device components and safety features; “see it....say it and check it”

Bring the required equipment – all PPE required for the operation / use of equipment

Equipment on the bucket truck can be used for the climbing portion (throw bag, pole sections, etc.)

**BE SAFE:** All DOT safety policies are to be followed; unsafe actions may disqualify the candidate from continuing the practicum

Dress for the weather and bring a lunch (we often work through lunch with the climb or bucket elements)

KNOW YOUR KNOTS (for climbing, the Blake’s hitch or tautline hitch are acceptable)

Any safety gear (for use when climbing or operating the bucket) that is NOT STATE ISSUE must be approved prior to the test.