

# THE CORPORATION OF DELTA

## SAFE WORK PROCEDURE

**SAFE WORK PROCEDURE FOR:** CUTTING GRASS, BRUSH AND TREES ON SLOPES

**LOCATION:** ENGINEERING OPERATIONS

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**PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS:** For all applications:  
Gloves, steel toe boots.

Additional PPE when using weedeater: Class "A" Hearing Protection, Faceshield, Weedeater harness

Additional equipment required when working on slopes with the potential of a vertical fall of over 10': safety harness, 15m of 11mm static (non-stretch) rope, 10m rope c/w Ascender tool, 4 nylon slings, 4 locking-D Carabiners

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Before commencing work, determine the appropriate steps required to do the work assigned. Look for all visible hazards and determine the best method to do the work safely.

Cutting grass on slopes should only be performed in dry conditions; wet grass poses an additional hazard which can be avoided with proper scheduling.

**JOB STEP:** Cutting grass on steep slopes with a vertical drop of over 10', using weedeater. This is required on slopes which cannot be cut with the flail mowers, such as Nordel Way.

**HAZARDS:** Falling down slope.

**SAFE PROCEDURES:** For Nordel Way: two employees are required for this procedure. Walk to the top of the hill, to the fenceline. Spread 11mm static rope out, along fence. Ensure bowline knot is tied in each end of rope. Wrap one nylon sling around the end fence post, as close to the ground as possible. This will prevent the fence from being pulled over. Attach the nylon sling to the end of the rope, using a Locking-D Carabiner.

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Attach the other end of the rope to the closest fencepost, using the same process.

At approximately mid-way, attach the rope to the fence, using the same process. The rope will slide freely through the Carabiner at this point.

Attach the rappelling rope to the fenceline rope, again using a sling and Carabiner. The rappelling rope is slightly larger than the fenceline rope, and has some spring action.

Descend the slope, using the rappelling rope and ascender tool for support.

Don safety harness, following the pictures on page 4 of this procedure. Attach the Ascender sling to the harness using a Carabiner.

Don the weedeater harness.

If required, the weedeater can be started at the base of the hill; use extreme caution when ascending the hill with the weedeater running.

To ascend the hill, the second person anchors the end of the rappelling rope at the base of the hill. Use the ascending tool to pull yourself up the slope.

You may now proceed with the work you will be doing. Work from the bottom of the slope to the top. When you reach the top, and are at the mid-point anchor, the anchor will have to be moved to allow you to proceed to the other side.

Do not remove the ascender line Carabiner; this is your protection in a fall. Ensure safe footing, remove the Carabiner connecting the fenceline rope to the fence, move it to the opposite side, and reattach. The weedeating can then proceed on the second side.

Do not use the rappelling equipment to support your weight; its purpose is to arrest your fall.

### **HAZARDS:**

Working with unsafe protective equipment

### **SAFE PROCEDURES:**

As you are attaching the ropes and slings, or donning the safety harness, visually inspect the equipment for tears, cracks, etc. If the equipment is defective in any way, return it to Small Equipment Stores for replacement. Do not take a chance - use the proper equipment and follow established procedures to ensure your safety.

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**HAZARDS:**

Burns to hands from sliding along Rappelling rope.

**SAFE PROCEDURES:**

Use hand-over-hand motion, when possible, to descend the hill along the Rappelling rope. Because the rope is made of nylon, it can burn the hands, even through gloves.

**HAZARDS:**

Struck in face with rock or debris

**SAFE PROCEDURES:**

Both the employee operating the weedeater, and the employee stabilizing the rope at the bottom of the slope, shall wear a faceshield.

**HAZARDS:** (for all applications)

Slipping, tripping

**SAFE PROCEDURES:**

Rip-Rap slopes generally have good footholds. Proceed with caution as you progress down the slope, carefully choosing each foothold. Care should be taken to lean towards the uphill slope as you proceed either up or down the slope, as this will ensure that if a slip is made you will not fall down the slope.

When reaching the site where bush clearing is required, establish good footing and proceed with caution to cut or remove the brush.

Workers must use sturdy safety footwear (workboots) with ankle support while working on all slopes.

DATE OF LAST REVISION: June 26, 2003