



## **RAY SMITH & ASSOCIATES, INC.**

Tree Pruning & Removal  
Plant Health Care  
Landscape Design, Installation & Maintenance  
Ponds & Water Features  
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### **PRESS RELEASE**

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#### **Ray Smith & Associates Employee Gains Certified Treecare Safety Professional Status.**

**Jackson Dodds, CTSP of Ray Smith & Associates, Inc.**, a commercial and residential tree care company located in Southampton, NY, recently completed the Certified Treecare Safety Professional (CTSP) program offered by the Tree Care Industry Association. The CTSP program allows key employees at a given company to become certified tree care safety experts, thereby empowering and encouraging a culture of safety within that organization and across the industry as a whole.

Maintaining a Certified Treecare Safety Professional on staff means that Ray Smith & Associates, Inc. is committed to safe practices in arboricultural operations. CTSP's are kept abreast of the latest technological advances and regulatory activities affecting the industry through the TCIA safety network, and must commit to ongoing education in the safety field in order to maintain their certification. Because safety regulations and industry standards are continually evolving, the ongoing education requirement is vital to maintaining a legitimate safety program.

There are three paths to CTSP program eligibility: Holding a degree in Arboriculture or a related science with technical experience through an internship; possessing three years technical field experience in tree care with at least one year of assumed responsibility for safety; or six month's technical field experience with one year in a professional safety role. In order to fulfill program requirements, CTSP's must complete a study guide, attend a training workshop, and pass a comprehensive exam. Staying certified requires CTSP's to earn a minimum of 30 CEU's every three years by committing to continuing their growth in the safety field through a variety of means.

The purpose of the CTSP program is to reduce work-related fatalities, injuries and illnesses overall, and completion of the program demonstrates a true commitment to improving the safety and well-being of tree care workers across the industry. Consumers can rest assured that retaining the services of a tree care company with a CTSP on staff ensures a safe, professional jobsite operated by highly skilled experts in the arboriculture field.