

Tree Trimming and Removal Policy

I. Trimming and Removal at Customer's Request

When a customer requests a tree trimmed or removed, and GRPUC wires(lines) make it difficult for the customer or their contractor to accomplish the work, GRPUC will do one of the following to permit tree trimming or removal:

- A. Temporarily drop the lines while the customer performs their work.
- B. Temporarily reroute the lines.
- C. De-energize the lines.
- D. Trim, top, or cut down tree(s). Prior to performing work, customer will sign a permit slip.

In all cases, the course of action is fully GRPUC's decision, and the customer is responsible for all clean-up and removal.

If the tree(s) do not pose a hazard to GRPUC lines, notify the customer that it is their responsibility, and provide local contractor information if desired.

II. Trimming and Removal at GRPUC Request

Consult GRPUC maps, or the system coordinator, to determine Right-of-Way or easement locations in relation to the tree(s) in question.

Attempt to notify the property owner:

- A. If you do not contact the owner perform work per the following:
 - Trim or cut per pruning and removal guidelines, any limbs or trees on city property, or on an easement.
 - Leave trees or limbs on private property alone, and notify the supervisor of the situation.
- B. If you do contact the property owner, inform them of your intentions, and of the reasons for trimming (customer safety, and reliability of service).

Have the customer sign a permit slip, and perform work per your agreement, cleaning up or leaving brush and logs.

If the customer refuses, note their refusal on the permit slip:

1. If the area to be trimmed or removed is on Right-of-Way or on an easement, perform work per pruning and removal guidelines. Remove all debris.
2. If the area is on private property, leave the area alone, and notify supervision.

III. Emergency Trimming

Tree(s) interfering with providing power shall be cleared as quickly as possible, leaving debris. If the tree was on city property, supervision will coordinate clean up at a later time.

General Pruning and Removal Guidelines

1. Minimum Clearances:

<u>Trimming Type</u>	<u>Services 0 - 600 V.</u>	<u>Main Line Secondaries</u>	<u>Primary Lines</u>
Top Clearance	1'	3'	10' *
Side Clearance	1'	3'	6'
Overhang Clearance	1'	3'	15'

* Remove if possible

2. Removal rather than prune:

Review each situation using good judgement on removing trees, in order to meet clearance requirements. When in doubt, remove.

3. Refusals:

Document all refusals by property owners, which result in inadequate clearance.

4. Diseased trees:

Handle and dispose of diseased trees in a manner to prevent the spread of the infecting agent, and in accordance with all laws or ordinances.

5. Stumps:

Do not leave pointed spikes or stumps of more than 3 inches.

6. Pruning procedure:

A. Use natural pruning or trimming methods. This involves drop crotch pruning, which consists of reducing tops, sides, or individual limbs and avoids cutting back to small suckers.

- B. Use directional pruning or trimming, to direct or train future tree growth or sprouting, away from conductors (Figure 1).
- C. Make cuts immediately above lateral branches, which are no smaller than one third of the diameter of the branches being cut. Cut flush to the parent stem, limb, or trunk, without cutting into the branch collar or leaving any protruding stubs (Figure 2).

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