



Tree Trimming and Removal Safety Tips

Assume that all power lines are energized!

- Contact the utility company to discuss de-energizing and grounding or shielding of power lines.
- All tree trimming or removal work within 10 feet of a power line must be done by trained and experienced line-clearance tree trimmers. A second tree trimmer is required within normal voice communication range.
- Line-clearance tree trimmers must be aware of and maintain the proper minimum approach distances when working around energized power lines.
- Use extreme caution when moving ladders and equipment around downed trees and power lines.

Stay alert at all times!

- Do not trim trees in dangerous weather conditions.
- Perform a hazard assessment of the work area before starting work.
- Eliminate or minimize exposure to hazards at the tree and in the surrounding area.
- Operators of chain saws and other equipment should be trained and the equipment properly maintained.

- Use personal protective equipment such as gloves, safety glasses, hard hats, hearing protection, recommended in the equipment manufacturer's operating manual.
- Determine the felling direction of the tree. Address potential problems of forward lean, back lean, and/or side lean.
- Determine the proper thickness of hinge wood to guide the tree's fall safely. Provide a retreat path to a safe location.
- Inspect tree limbs for strength and stability before climbing. Tree trimmers working aloft must use appropriate fall protection.
- Do not climb with tools in your hands.
- If broken trees are under pressure, determine the direction of the pressure and make small cuts to release it.
- Use extreme care when felling a tree that has not fallen completely to the ground and is lodged against another tree.
- Never turn your back on a falling tree.
- Be alert and avoid objects thrown back by a tree as it falls.

Adapted from OSHA Quick Card 3301-10-05, U.S. Department of Labor.



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Commissioner of Labor

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