



Tree Trimming

Safety Tips Around Power Lines

- Assume all power lines are energized.
- Contact the utility company to discuss de-energizing and grounding or shielding power lines in the areas you are working.
- All tree trimming or removal work within 10 feet of a power line should be done by trained and experienced line-clearance tree trimmers. A second tree trimmer should be within normal voice communication range.
- Line-clearance tree trimmers should be aware of and maintain the proper minimum approach distances when working around energized power lines.
- Use extreme caution when moving ladders or 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 potential hazards.
- Operators of chain saws and other equipment should be trained, and the equipment properly maintained.
- Use personal protective equipment (PPE) – gloves, safety glasses, hard hats and hearing protection.
- Determine what direction the tree will fall. Address forward lean, back lean and/or side lean issues.
- Determine the proper amount of hinge wood to guide the tree's fall safely. Plan a retreat path to a safe location.
- Inspect tree limbs for strength and stability before climbing. Trimmers working in trees should use appropriate fall protection.
- Do not climb with tools in your hands.

Source: OSHA

Safety tips developed based on generally accepted safety standards believed to be reliable at the date of publication. Information is for general guidance only and should not be relied upon for legal compliance purposes.

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