

City of Alcoa Electric Department Tree Trimming Policy

General

City of Alcoa Electric Department (CAED) is required by TVA, the system that we operate under, to provide and reasonably maintain electrical service to all customers that apply for service within our operating territory.

All customers must agree to abide by the general operating rules of the Utility and adhere to certain safety standards and practices.

Tree trimming of above ground high voltage electrical lines is performed by the Utility for the sole purpose of maintaining reasonable continuity of electrical service and safety for all customers. If a customer fails to allow CAED a reasonable right-of-entry to responsibly trim trees and maintain the Utility's power line and poles, that customer would be jeopardizing the continuity of service to themselves and many other utility customers.

A vast number of power outages are caused by tree limbs falling on or growing into the power lines. CAED has increased its tree trimming efforts to further reduce the quantity and duration of power outages to the system. CAED needs the cooperation and understanding of its customers to adequately perform this necessary, but sometimes annoying, utility service.

The customers can help the Utility reduce the number of power outages by allowing the tree trimmers to cut down or remove non-ornamental trees and high growing shrubs that grow along the roadways, fence rows, and rights-of-way. Any tree that threatens the integrity of the primary high voltage lines will be considered for removal or replacement.

Please read the entire standard tree trimming policy, and work with your Utility to provide better electrical service for you and your neighbors.

New Construction

New homes and businesses being constructed on previously vacant land cannot have trees or shrubs planted under or adjacent to the Utility's primary high voltage lines. "Adjacent to" is considered to be within the protected zone as show in example #1 on page 5.

Trees Trimmed by CAED and Trees that are the Responsibility of the Customer

CAED may trim, cut-down, replace, or remove any tree within the protected zone of the Utilities' primary high voltage electrical lines. Any tree outside the protected zone that threatens the integrity of the Utilities' lines or poles will be considered for trimming or removal.

The Utility or its Contractor will attempt to notify the landowner (except under emergency conditions) prior to any cut-down or removal of trees.

The Utility will not be obligated to, but may, notify the landowner prior to standard reasonable tree trimming for trees within the protected zone.

The Utility or its Contractor will attempt to notify the landowner prior to trimming trees that are outside the protected zone, except where these trees are obviously on unoccupied land or wood lots.

The low-voltage (service) overhead wires that are on the customer's property ARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CUSTOMER. CAED does not trim trees for the service wires

crossing the customer's property that connect the meter to the pole transformer. If the customer fails to adequately trim these trees, and the low-voltage service wires or OTHER UTILITY OR CUSTOMER equipment is damaged, all repairs will be the responsibility of the customer. The customer SHALL maintain a clear pathway to the Utility revenue Meter! If the customer fails to maintain this pathway, and after having received a written notice from the Utility, the Utility may disconnect electrical service until the customer has cleared the pathway.

Trimming trees around service lines (lines running from the customer's house to the transformer) is the customer's responsibility. For your convenience and safety, Electric department crews will come out and disconnect those lines (free of charge) at your request. Crews will then come back out and reconnect those lines when called (during regular business hours).

Method of Trimming

All trimming and pruning shall be in accordance with Tree Line USA requirements as described in "Pruning Trees Near Electric Utility Lines: A Field Guide for Qualified Line-Clearance Workers" by Dr. Alex Sligo, Best Management Practices – Utility Pruning of Trees, and ANSI A 300 guidelines.

CAED or its Contractor will trim the trees, within the protected zone, with the main objective of clearing the protected zone ONLY! This means that our basic policy is not to do extra trimming beyond the protected zone. THIS MAY LEAVE TREES THAT ARE CONSIDERED "UNATTRACTIVE" BY SOME CUSTOMERS. It will be the responsibility of the customer to hire a reputable and knowledgeable tree trimming contractor to provide any extra trimming, outside the protected zone, that the customer deems necessary. The area of the protected zone is defined in example #1 at the bottom of this page. Non-ornamental trees eight (8) inches or less in diameter on the ROW will normally be removed.

The type of trimming, or removal, which will be performed, is determined by the Utility based on the classification of the tree and its relation (location) to the Utilities' primary high voltage lines. For the purpose of tree trimming the Utility has broadly classified all trees into the following (4) four categories:

1. **Evergreen "Non-Ornamental"**
Pine, Fir, and spruce type trees that are growing on unoccupied land or open wood lots.
2. **Evergreen "Ornamental"**
Pine, Fir, and spruce type trees that are growing on occupied land and rights-of-way and are obviously being used by a land-owner for esthetic landscaping or shading.
3. **Deciduous "Non-Ornamental"**
All trees other than EVERGREENS. They usually have broad leaves and lose their foliage each year. Non-ornamental means that the trees were most probably not planted for esthetic landscaping or shading.
4. **Deciduous "Ornamental"**
All trees other than EVERGREENS that were most probably planted for esthetic landscaping or shading.

The protected zone is shown graphically in example #1 on page 5. It consists of 10 to 15 feet of clearance from all ungrounded energized conductors and 10 feet of clearance from neutral conductors. Slower growing trees may be cleared to the lesser clearance (10' phase) and faster growing trees to the higher clearance (15' phase). Overhang shall be cleared to 15 feet or removed if possible. Pole-to-pole secondary conductors shall be cleared a minimum of 10 feet. Service drops are not pruned. Normal widths of rights-of-way are 20 feet for single-phase and 30 feet for three-phase primary lines.

All trees that are trimmed by the Utility or its contractors will be trimmed by one of the methods in Table 1 (also shown graphically on page 6). The method used at a specific site will be determined by how the location best meets the criteria of each listing in Table 1.

Table 1: Method of Trimming

1. **Lateral (Vee) Cutting**
Used for deciduous ornamental or non-ornamental trees whose center is nearly inline with the center of the primary overhead line. This is considered to be directly under or almost directly under the line.
2. **Top Cutting #1**
Used for ornamental or non-ornamental evergreen trees whose center is nearly inline with the center of the primary overhead line. This is considered to be directly under or almost directly under the line.
3. **Top Cutting #2 (Moderate Roundover)**
Used for deciduous type trees whose trunks are too far outside the center line of the primary overhead line to use lateral (Vee) cutting, but are too close to the center line of the primary overhead line to use side cutting.
4. **Side Cutting #1**
Used for all deciduous type trees whose trunks are too far outside the center line of the primary overhead line to use lateral (Vee) cutting, but are far enough from the center line not to warrant top cutting.
5. **Side Cutting #2**
Used for very large ornamental evergreen trees whose center is too far outside the center line of the primary overhead line to use top cutting.
6. **Removal**
Cutting the tree trunk at ground level, with or without stump removal. No stumps will be removed without the full approval of the Utility Tree Trimming Foreman.

Limbs/Brush Removal and Cleanup After Trimming

CAED or its Contractor will remove all limbs and brush from the trimming area after the work has been completed. Occasionally, this removal may occur the following work day. The Utility may need to leave some of this material at the site, but no longer than one workday (weather permitting) after the trimming has started. No material will be left on the landowner's occupied property without their verbal permission. This material will be left at the road right-of-way for pick-up. CAED is not responsible for the cleanup of any brush or debris caused by natural effects.

CAED will clean up the trimming area before leaving the site or at the end of each day (weather permitting).

Firewood, "Cash Value" Hard Woods and Wood Chips

All tree cuttings that are considered firewood and are larger than (8") eight inches in diameter and longer than (4') four feet in length will be cut into (18") eighteen-inch logs and stacked at the trimming site, unless the landowner requests otherwise. All requests should be made to the CAED tree trimming foreman only. If these firewood logs are not removed from the cutting area within four days after the trimming has been completed, CAED will return and dispose of this material as it deems necessary.

Cash value hardwood (e.g., walnut, cherry, oak, etc.) tree trunks will not be removed from the site without the written consent of the landowner.

All limbs will be chipped at the trimming site and removed by CAED or its Contractor unless other arrangements are made by the landowner or neighbors prior to or during the trimming. Any CAED customer that wishes to place a standing order to receive free wood chips can contact the CAED tree trimming foreman. Also, the availability and delivery time can be discussed with the foreman. Any request from a landowner at the trimming site will take priority over a standing order.

Ornamental, evergreen, and fruit trees and shrubs and trees in yards are to be trimmed only. These are to be removed only on customer request.

Underground and Overhead Subdivisions

CAED has expressed and implied easements and right-of-ways within all subdivisions. These easements were granted by the developers as a condition of electrical service. The depth of these easements varies between subdivisions but generally extend inward 10 feet from the property line on all exterior lot lines and 5 feet each side of interior lot lines. The customer must not plant trees or shrubs within this easement unless granted permission in writing by the Utility. Trees that are planted within this easement and are a threat to the Utilities' overhead or underground lines and transformers can be removed without recourse.

New Services from Wood Poles

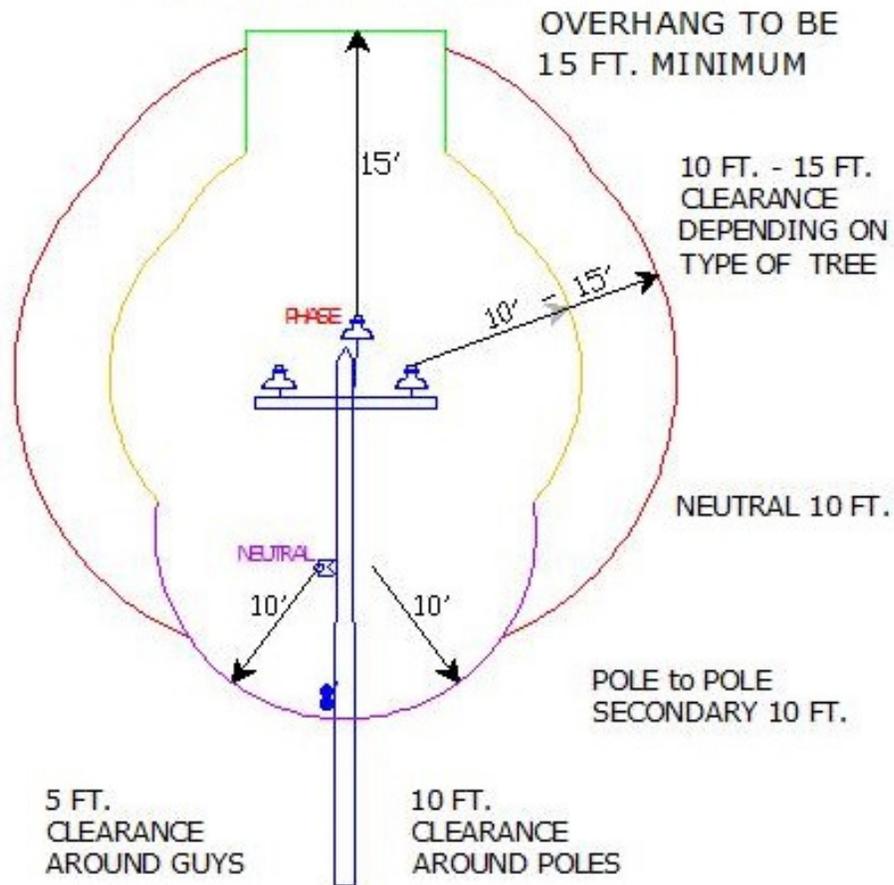
The Utility is required to supply electrical service to all applicants within its service area. The Utility can require an applicant to provide aid to construction in the form of fees or services. CAED does require that an applicant provide all necessary easements, tree trimming and tree cuttings removal for all new primary or secondary overhead lines that are greater than fifty feet (50') from the main primary line or service tap point. The Utility will not provide this service for a fee. The applicant can perform the trimming themselves or can hire a tree trimming contractor directly. The trimming will be completed to the satisfaction of and inspected by the Utility prior to the new service being constructed.

Chemical Spraying on Rights-of-way

The Utility or its Contractors may occasionally use environmentally safe weed killers and brush growth retardants near the road or on the main line rights-of-way. Efforts will be made to notify all landowners. All spraying will be performed using a low volume back-pack or tank truck type sprayers for delivery. Stumps and exposed roots of removed trees and areas around removed vines will be treated with approved herbicides.

EXAMPLE 1

City of Alcoa Electric Department Minimum Line Clearance Standards For Distribution Circuits



City of Alcoa Electric Dept. will utilize "lateral trimming" & will cut to the nearest lateral branch at the designated clearance.



BEFORE

TOP CUT
NO.1



AFTER

● 01



BEFORE

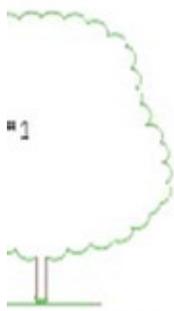
LATERAL CUT
(V)



AFTER

● 11

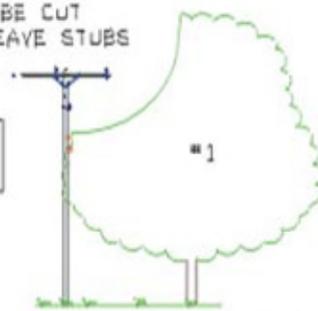
NOTE:
THE LIMBS WILL BE CUT
SO AS NOT TO LEAVE STUBS



#1

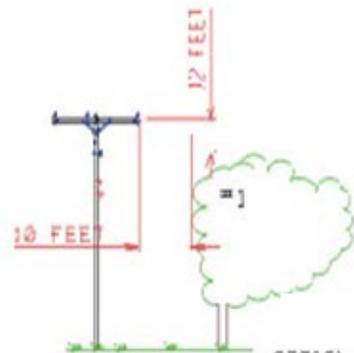
BEFORE

SIDE CUT

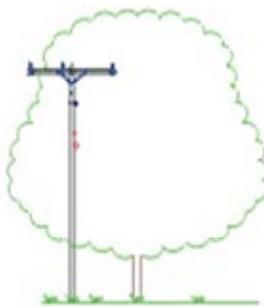


#1

OPTION 1

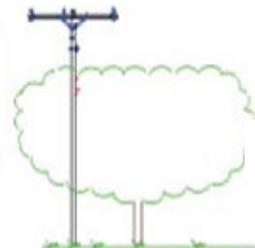


OPTION 2



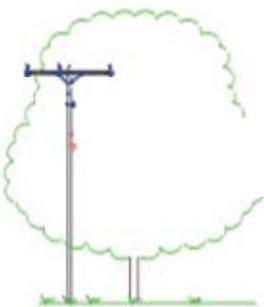
BEFORE

TOP CUT
NO.2
(MODERATE ROUNDOVER)



AFTER

● 11



BEFORE

CUTDOWN



W/O STUMP
REMOVAL



WITH STUMP
REMOVAL

● 11

