

Easley Combined Utilities Tree Trimming Policy



Power Line Tree Trimming

Easley Combined Utilities acknowledges that trees in rural and urban settings are a vital element of the quality of life. However, when tree limbs come in contact with power lines, it is dangerous and electric service can be impaired.

Trees cause a majority of the power outages affecting the Utility's customers. Fallen trees and tree limbs that become entangled in lines, wind-blown branches that cross the lines as they fall to the ground, and tree limbs that grow into power lines are the major causes of outages. Not only are such service interruptions inconvenient for customers, but they can also threaten public safety when power is interrupted to vital services such as hospitals, traffic signals, and fire alarm systems, or to customers with life-support systems.

As part of the Utility's obligation to provide reliable electrical service to customers, the utility has developed a vegetation management program designed to keep tree limbs and shrubs safely away from power lines.

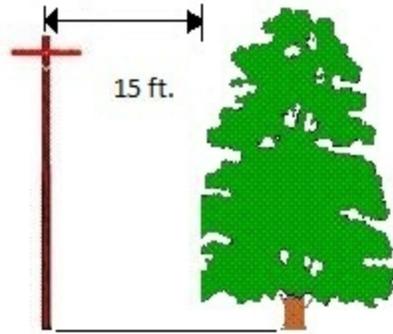
The Utility will trim all trees and vegetation around its energized power lines, fiber optic cables, utility poles and pad mount transformers. All tree trimming will be done to obtain maximum clearance with due regard to current and future tree health and symmetry.

It is important to keep alleys and rights-of-way clear of debris so crews have access to perform maintenance or emergency functions safely.

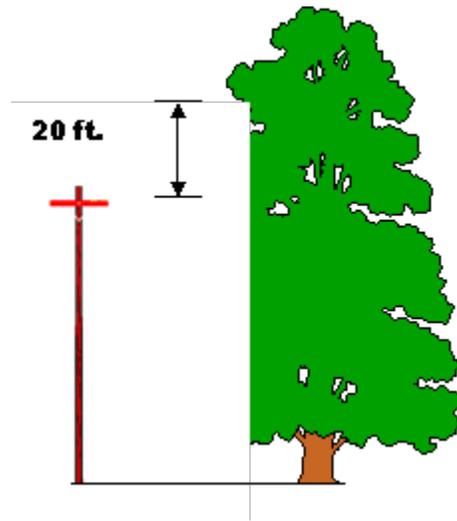
Clearances

The Utility attempts to maintain a five-year trim cycle. The exact amount of clearances needed in a given area depends on the voltage of the line and the type of line construction. Line sag during temperature extremes, as well as wind movement of power lines and tree also must be taken into consideration.

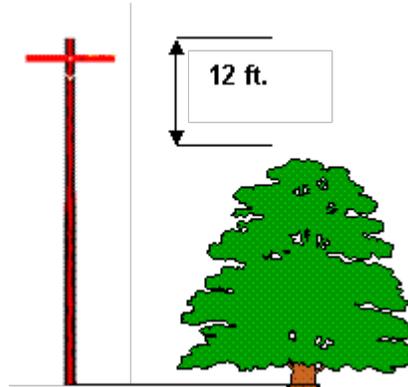
Any limb within 15 feet of all electrical lines will be cut back. Because proper pruning requires cutting at certain points, branches will be cut at a main branching point, or at the trunk, leaving no stub. Sometimes this may mean the branch is cut more than 15 feet from the lines, but it helps preserve the health of the tree.



Trees with trunk diameters of 10 inches or less at chest height located less than 10 feet from the nearest electrical line may be removed. Any limb above the line to a maximum height of 20 feet will be removed. Certain main branches on older trees can remain inside the minimum clearance, but this depends on the health of the tree, direction of growth and likelihood of its limbs reaching the lines.



All species located directly under the line that have a maturity height exceeding 15 feet will be removed at ground level. Slower growing species, such as oak, cedar, fir, and hemlock may be left if they have a minimum trunk size exceeding 10 inches and will be pruned to maintain 12 feet of clearance to the nearest primary conductor.



Services and Street Lights

Trimming for services to residences and private lights is the responsibility of the customer. In order to reduce the risk of electrical hazards, the Utility will drop the service wire and re-connect it after a qualified contractor has completed the tree work. There is no charge for this service, but it must be scheduled. Contact the Utility's office at (864) 859-4013 to make arrangements in advance.