

TREE SERVICE NOTICE

Overgrown trees can cause temporary power outages!

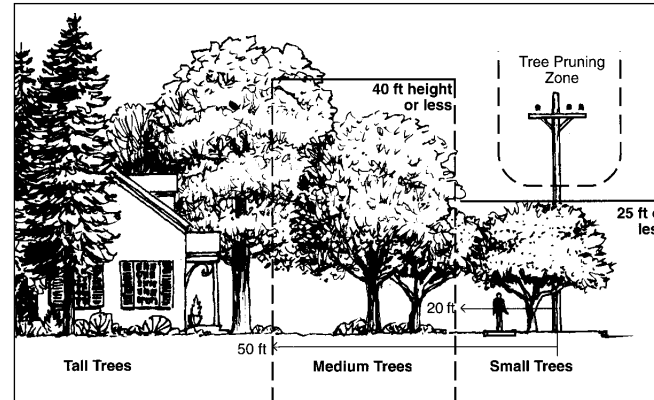
Because tall growing trees have grown too close to the power lines or equipment that deliver electricity to homes in your community, Conectiv Power Delivery's contractor, Asplundh Tree Expert Co., will soon be maintaining trees in your area. Line clearance tree pruning — or, in some cases, tree removal — may be necessary to ensure a continued, reliable supply of electricity for you and other Conectiv Power Delivery customers.

There is no charge for this service. However, the contractor does not remove stumps or pieces of wood that are 3 inches or larger in diameter, but will cut them down into unsplit, firewood-sized pieces. Wood pieces left at a tree site on your property are your responsibility. Many customers enjoy using such pieces to enhance landscaping designs or as firewood; in some cases, wood chips produced during the tree maintenance process can be left at the site for use as mulch.

Asplundh will soon be attending to trees in your area. Please read this brochure so you can understand the tree maintenance process. If you have a question about this service, please call Conectiv Power Delivery at one of the numbers on the back of this brochure, and our representative will respond to your concerns.

We very much appreciate your cooperation. If we work together, Conectiv Power Delivery can continue to provide you with safe, affordable and reliable electricity!

You Can Prevent Future Tree-Wire Problems



It's important to plant the right tree for the right place.

Tall Trees

Tall trees, such as Maple, Sycamore, Oak, Spruce, and Pine, should be well away from wires – more than 50 feet to the side.

Medium Trees

Medium trees that grow to a height of 40 feet or less, such as Callery Pear, Birch, and Honey Locust, should be planted at least 20 feet from power lines.

Small Trees

Small trees that grow slowly and to less than 25 feet in height, such as Dogwood, Flowering Cherry, Serviceberry, Crabapple, Purple Leaf Plum and Japanese Red Maple, are recommended for areas close to power lines.

Questions?

For questions concerning tree maintenance, please call one of the following numbers:

New Castle County, DE 302-454-0300

**Delmarva Peninsula and Harford County, MD
1-800-375-7117**

New Jersey 1-800-642-3780



Trees and Reliable Electric Service

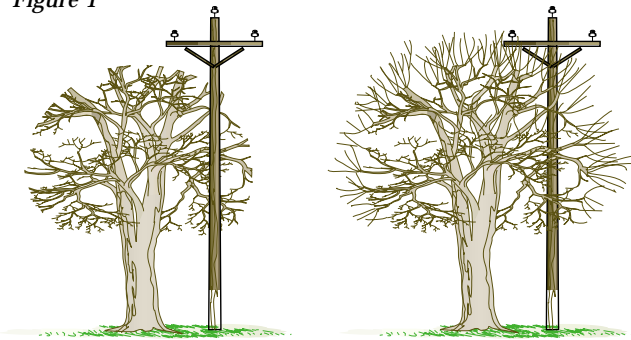
Answers to Questions About Tree Pruning and Electrical Power

A large orange triangular sign with the text 'TREE TRIMMING AHEAD' in bold, black, uppercase letters. The sign is set against a background of green trees.

Why Must Trees be Pruned?

Conectiv Power Delivery is committed to providing our customers safe, reliable electricity in a cost-effective manner. Pruning, or trimming, trees is one of the key services that allow us to deliver electricity – and it is a vital activity that directly affects public safety! Tree problems can easily cause power outages, which we strive to eliminate. Keeping trees properly pruned also minimizes the possibility of electrical contact, downed wires, and electrical fires, all of which can be dangerous

Figure 1



Topped trees satisfy the immediate problem, but soon send out fast-growing, multiple shoots that often grow taller in one season than the branches that were originally cut.

to the public, in addition to damaging or killing healthy trees. An effective tree maintenance program is critical to our successful delivery of your electric service.

Customer Obligations

If you have received notice of pending line clearance services in your area and you prefer to consider one of the alternatives described in this brochure, **please contact Conectiv Power Delivery within three days.** If we do not hear from you, we will continue with our planned tree work, so we can complete our line clearance program in an efficient, cost-effective manner.

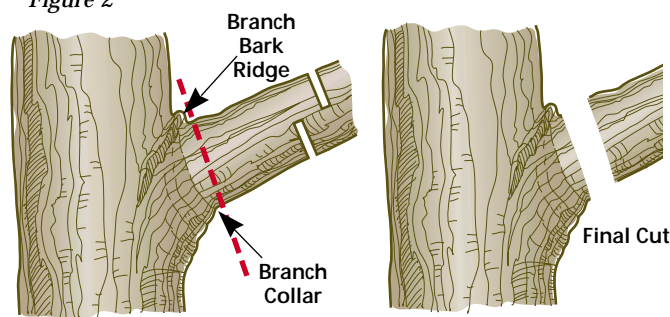
How is Line Clearance Done?

Conectiv Power Delivery has allied with Asplundh Tree Expert Co. to periodically prune out branches which might interfere with our power lines and electric facilities. Asplundh uses a relatively new procedure, called “directional” or “lateral” pruning, approved by the United States Forest Service, the International Society of Arboriculture, and the National Arbor Day Foundation.

Topping Trees

In the past, trees were trimmed uniformly around power lines in a method called topping (Figure 1). Trees were “topped,” on an imaginary plane across the tree, by “heading” each branch so that the tree was “rounded over” and fit neatly under the power lines. This satisfied the immediate requirements needed for public safety and electrical line clearance, but produced problems later on. The randomly placed heading cuts caused the tree to produce fast-growing multiple sprouts that in

Figure 2



For lateral trimming of an established tree, remove about one-third of the tree's branches. Do not flush cut—always cut after the branch bark ridge leaving the branch collar intact.

one growing season were often taller than the branches originally trimmed. These heading cuts also left many dead stubs that weakened the tree and provided an avenue for fungi, insects and disease to enter the plant.

Directional or Lateral Pruning

The term “lateral” is derived from the method of cutting a branch back to the next limb or lateral growing branch (see Figure 2), which mimics the way trees self-prune their branches in a forest. This reduces the number of fast growing, multiple sprouts and directs the future growth of the tree away from the power lines. Lateral pruning involves removing only the branches that may endanger electrical wires. This selective pruning of specific branches retains more of the tree's natural crown, a method proven to be healthier for the tree than arbitrary topping. Wire location, limb size, or branch configuration may make it necessary to remove limbs back to the tree's trunk. The tree species, its position in relation to our electric facilities, and line voltage are all factors in determining how much limb removal is required.

Figures 3 and 4 show the basic forms that lateral pruning can take depending upon where the tree is in relation to the power lines.

When trees are planted directly beneath power lines, branches must be cut back until a fork (crotch) in the tree is reached (see Figure 3). This is a natural junction that allows the arborist to direct new growth away and permits large trees to coexist with power lines.

If the tree is next to power lines, then lateral cuts are

Figure 3



Trees planted directly below power lines pose the biggest risk to the power supply. Branches growing in the direction of the wires are pruned until a clear passage on all sides is created. Future growth is directed away and down.

made to direct the tree growth back and away from the power lines (see Figure 4). Branches above the power lines are directed up and back, while those below the power lines are directed down and back or removed to the trunk. Next season's growth is then concentrated in the direction of the lateral cuts and away from the wires. Future pruning refines this procedure and improves the shape of the tree. These methods usually mean cutting fewer branches but achieving better electrical service reliability for our customers, and it is healthier for the trees.

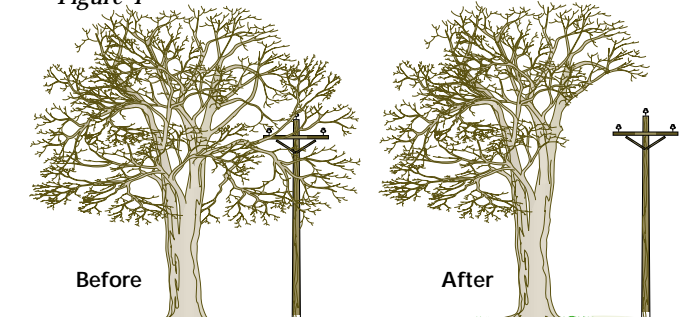
How Often Are Trees Pruned?

The types of trees along our primary distribution lines in residential areas generally need pruning every 2–5 years. Trees interfering with your house service are pruned just enough to keep them from rubbing the wires. Each tree's size, shape, and growth rate are taken into consideration during line clearance tree work.

What About Tree Removal?

Occasionally, it is necessary for a crew to remove a tree rather than prune it. Removal might be required when: a tree is near our primary wires and it is dying or leaning toward them; it is easily climbed or shows child activity (treehouses); or it is a fast-growing/weak-wooded tree such as Sycamore, Silver Maple, Willow and Poplar. If a tree needs to be removed, the property owner's permission is obtained and they are welcome to plant a new, low-growing species of tree in its place (see back panel).

Figure 4



When the tree is located to the side of the power lines, branches growing toward the wires are pruned as well as branches that could grow over the top of the the wires. Subsequent pruning will reinforce the directional training of the tree.

Alternatives to Pruning

Sometimes there are alternatives* to pruning trees that interfere with electric wires:

- 1) The tree in question can be removed and replaced with an approved, low-growing tree specie.
- 2) Conectiv Power Delivery may be able to place existing overhead electric lines underground.
- 3) Existing overhead electric lines may be reconstructed to alleviate tree clearance problems, as long as these reconstructions do not adversely impact adjacent property.

***All such work would be completed at the requesting customer's expense, for which Conectiv Power Delivery will provide a cost estimate.**