

## **Utility Line Clearance Standards (proposed jointly by CL&P and UI)**

The following standards shall be considered the minimum requirements for each electric distribution company's vegetation management plan. Line clearance shall be performed to protect the company's primary electric lines and equipment during normal and severe weather.

### Vegetation Management Plan

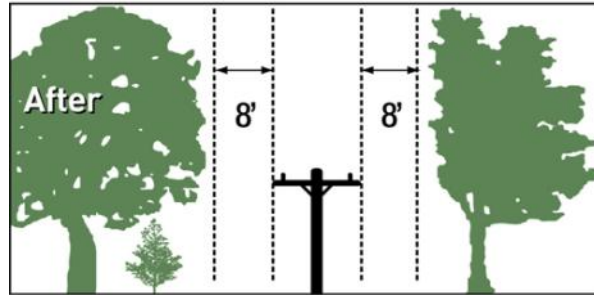
By November 15 of each year, the company shall file an annual Vegetation Management plan that includes but shall not be limited to the following:

1. Work scope and budget details
  - a. Roadside miles scheduled, backbone and lateral
  - b. Right-of-Way miles, brush control and side pruning
  - c. Risk tree removal
  - d. Vine control
  - e. Traffic control
  - f. Customer request tree work
  - g. Mid-Cycle
  - h. Emergency restoration, minor storm
  - i. Other
2. Tree and brush work specification
3. Line clearance organization
4. Property owner notification and consent procedures
5. The planned maintenance within each town within the company's service territory

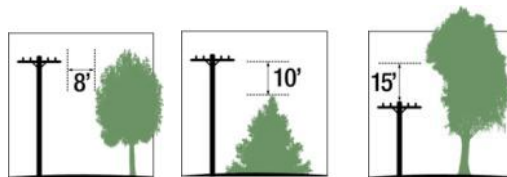
### Clearance Requirements

1. Routine maintenance tree and brush work (tree pruning) shall be performed on a 4-year cycle.
  - a. All roadside and off-road primary voltage lines shall be cleared at least once every 4 years.
2. The utility clearance zone shall be the area 8 feet to the side of all primary conductors from the ground to the sky.
  - a. Enhanced Clearance shall be performed to achieve the following clearances on all circuit backbone and lateral conductors selected for enhanced tree work:

- i. Remove all tall growing tree species below within the clearance zone
- ii. Remove all overhanging limbs within the clearance zone



- b. Scheduled Maintenance Clearance shall be performed to achieve the following clearance around all primary voltage conductors not selected for enhanced tree work:
  - i. 10 feet below within the clearance zone
  - ii. 15 feet overhead within the clearance zone



- 3. Remove hazard trees within the clearance zone
- 4. Each tree shall be evaluated at the time that it is pruned. The tree crew shall consider tree species, condition, growth rate and location when performing line clearance.
- 5. Clearance shall be performed in accordance with the following tree care industry standards:
  - a. ANSI Z133.1
  - b. OSHA 29 CFR 1910.269
  - c. ANSI A300 Part 1: Tree, Shrub, and Other Woody Plant Maintenance – Standard Practices, Pruning
  - d. Best Management Practices, Utility Pruning of Trees