




# Keeping Your Power On Tree Maintenance Near Power Lines

## General Policies & Procedures



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15-04-226

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**Safety and Reliability:** With almost 50,000 miles of distribution power lines in our service area, Xcel Energy prunes and/or removes trees on our regular maintenance schedule (usually between every three to five years) to assist in keeping the public safe and to help ensure reliable electricity. Trees near power lines, either through growth or broken branch failure, can cause downed lines and power outages. People who work or play in or near trees close to power lines can suffer severe injury or even death from electric contact.

**Routine Pruning and Tree Removal:** During our regular maintenance schedules, we prune and remove trees to provide adequate clearance for our power lines. When doing this work, small brush and limbs are cleared away, but large limbs and logs are cut into manageable lengths and left on site for the homeowner's use or disposal. If a tree is removed, we do not grind the stump but may treat it with an EPA-registered herbicide to prevent sprouting.

**Dead or Dying Trees:** Our contract crews are also looking for dead and dying trees, sometimes called hazard trees, that may fall on the lines. The amount cleared on these trees is based on the tree's height and its distance from the power lines. Brush and wood from this work is not hauled away.

**We'll Check Your Trees Near Power Lines:** If you have a question about whether your tree needs to be pruned by a professional because it looks like it is or may grow into the power lines, call us at **1-800-895-4999**. We'll have a field representative come out and evaluate the situation.

We may prune or clear a portion of the tree away from power lines to create a "safety zone." In these situations, wood and brush are not hauled away by Xcel Energy because work was requested by the property owner.

Sometimes trees may be interfering with the power line that runs to your house. In these pole-to-house line situations, you'll need to call us at **1-800-895-4999** to request to have your electric service wire disconnected or de-energized so you can have a qualified tree worker perform the tree work. In certain areas, a service fee may apply.

**Removing Debris from an Emergency Situation:** Sometimes a tree branch may fall onto the power lines as a result of an emergency situation—such as a storm. We'll come out and remove the branch—or in extreme cases, the entire fallen tree—but the debris disposal is the tree owner's responsibility.

## Working With Property Owners

Because distribution lines are on the property of customers we serve, we have access to them through our customer service agreements. When doing our work, we always go to great lengths to collaborate with our customers. However, there are times when a landowner may disagree with us on a specific issue. If that happens, our goal is to work diligently to resolve the problem and attempt to reach a mutually agreeable solution.

If you have a question or concern about our distribution vegetation management program, please contact us at **1-800-895-4999**. You can also learn more about our program, including tips on planting the right types of trees near power lines through our "Plant a Better Future" guides, by visiting [xcelenergy.com/trees](http://xcelenergy.com/trees).

Contact us at **1-800-895-4999** or visit [xcelenergy.com/trees](http://xcelenergy.com/trees).

