Trees & Power Lines

Trees + Power Lines = Disaster

Do Your Part:

1. **Fire Safety:** Trees in contact with high voltage power lines can act as an ignition source for fire.
2. **Public Safety:** To prevent injury to people climbing or working in trees adjacent to power lines.
3. **Reducing Outages:** Trees represent one of the largest causes of power outages in California.

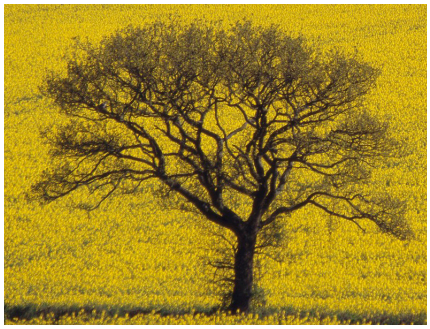
Your Utility Company's Responsibility

- **It's the Law:** State law requires utility companies to maintain specific clearances (depending on voltage running through the line) between electric power lines and all vegetation.
- **Homeowner Liability:** Failure to allow a utility company to comply with the law can result in liability to the homeowner for damages or injuries resulting from a vegetation hazard. Many insurance companies do not cover these types of damages if the policy owner has refused to allow the hazard to be eliminated.

You can help prevent electrical outages, fire and public safety hazards by:

- Clearing all flammable vegetation within minimum of 100 feet around your home and other structures. This provides the greatest chance for survival and is also required by law. Public Resources Code 4291.
- Not planting trees under or near power lines. Before planting trees close to any power line, contact your local utility company to confirm the maximum tree height allowed for that location.
- Look into planting vegetation that is more fire resistant. However, vegetation is only fire resistant if it is cared for, watered and trimmed. Talk with your local nursery for more information.
- Never allow children to climb trees growing near power lines.
- Never prune trees near power lines. Call your local utility company first to inspect the trees. In many instances the utility company may perform the tree work at no cost to the homeowner.
- Inspect the trees on your property annually for hazards. For expert advice on tree health or hazards consult an International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist.

www.fire.ca.gov



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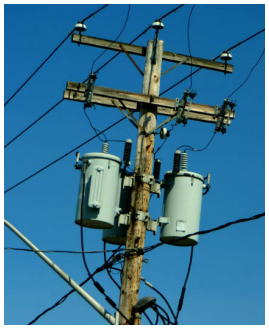

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