



Wisconsin Public Service Corporation
700 North Adams Street
Green Bay, WI 54301
www.wisconsinpublicservice.com

February 20, 2018

Dear Property Owner,

Wisconsin Public Service knows that you depend on safe, reliable electric service. To prevent your electric service from being threatened by growing trees, Public Service has the responsibility to prune or remove those trees to minimize any electrical outages, fire hazards or other dangers.

As part of our regular maintenance program, Public Service hires line clearance crews to prune or remove trees to minimize these outages and hazards. Asplundh Tree Expert Co. will soon be helping Public Service with tree pruning and removal along existing overhead lines that cross properties in the **City of Oshkosh and Township of Algoma, WI.**

This letter is to inform you that trees on your property may need pruning. If we identify any trees that pose a reliability or safety risk, or are dead, dying or diseased, we may need to remove them. There is no charge for the required pruning or removal of trees on your property. *If overhead power lines do not cross your property, you may disregard this notice. If you are not the current owner of this property, please let us know or forward this information to the appropriate person.*

Enclosed, you'll find valuable information related to how trees near electrical lines are pruned. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please give Asplundh a call at 715-345-7556 or leave message.

Sincerely,

Line Clearance Team
Wisconsin Public Service
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P.S. Free wood chips, in rough form, may be available as a result of tree pruning. If you are interested, please call Asplundh at the above number.

Wisconsin Public Service continues to be named a Tree Line USA Utility by the National Arbor Day Foundation for effectively balancing the protection of trees while providing reliable electric service. As members of the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), we hire qualified tree specialists who carefully trim trees as outlined in the ISA Tree Maintenance Standard.



How Trees Are Pruned Near Electric Lines

For the safety of our public and the health of our trees.

When Wisconsin Public Service needs to prune to maintain our power line corridors, we hire qualified tree specialists. These trimmers are knowledgeable about the proper way to prune trees and they use equipment specially designed for work near electric lines.

How much pruning is necessary?

The extent of tree pruning needed along high voltage primary lines depends on the species of trees adjacent to overhead lines and where the trees are located. All trees are pruned back to existing tree lines. If no tree line exists (yards, parks, etc...) then the trees are classified into one of two categories: slow growing and fast growing. Trees species, which regrow their branches at a slow rate, are pruned in order to provide a clearance of at least 6 feet from conductors. Examples of "slow growing" species would be most of the trees in the conifer family as well as the majority of fruit bearing trees. Tree species, which have been found to regrow their branches at faster rates, are pruned back in order to provide a minimum clearance of 10 feet from conductors. Some of the more commonly known trees of these "fast growing" species are ash, aspen, basswood, birch, elm, maple, oak, willow and white pine. All limbs, which overhang our conductors, are pruned in order to provide 20 feet above.

Open 3 wires secondary and service wires are cleared according to their growth rates as well. Trees in the "fast growing" category are pruned in order to provide 5 feet of clearance and the "slow growing" trees are pruned to 3 feet.

Coated secondary, service and streetlight wires are cleared only if trees or limbs are deflecting the conductors.

When must trees be removed?

Trees within 10 feet of high voltage primary conductors less than 12" in diameter are to be removed. Diseased, structurally weakened or leaning trees which pose an imminent threat to the conductors regardless of distance away from power lines are also considered for removal. Trees smaller than 4 inches in diameter (commonly referred to as "brush") that are located within the clearing zone and are capable of growing into the electric lines in the future are removed. Stumps and young tall growing species of trees are treated with herbicide.

Trees that have caused repeated safety problems or power outages would need to be removed rather than trimmed.

What about clean up?

In rural areas, limbs and brush smaller than 4 inches in diameter are piled and left on site. In urban areas, the limbs are chipped and hauled away. Wood larger than 4 inches in diameter is left on site in both urban and rural areas.

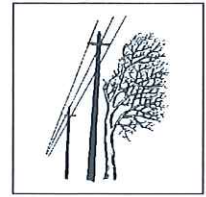
How are the trees pruned?

Our tree-trimming contractors use natural pruning methods. Natural pruning reduces re-sprouting in problem areas and allows the tree to seal itself naturally. This means they maintain the health of the tree as much as possible. WPS does not allow our contractors to use "round over" trimming, which causes a tree to grow in an unnatural way and wounds a tree severely.

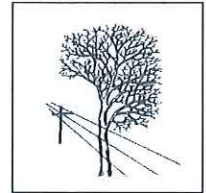
How can property owners avoid the need for tree pruning?

To prevent the need for tree pruning or removal near power lines, WPS recommends planting trees away from power lines and transplanting young, tall-growing trees that are under or near power lines.

For a copy of "Lines, Limbs and the Landscape," which gives advice on trees that can grow safely near power lines and tips on planting, call 24-hour customer service at 800-450-7260 or e-mail customerservice@wisconsinpublicservice.com.



Side Pruning



Under Pruning



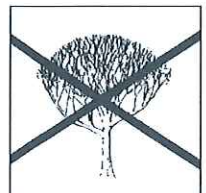
"V" or Through Pruning



Side Pruning



Top Pruning



"Round Over"

