



Kiel Electric Utility Tree Trimming Standards

The following standards and work practices for proper tree trimming have been organized from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC), American National Standard Institute (ANSI), American Public Power Association (APPA), The National Electric Safety Code (NESC), Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and the Occupation of Safety and Health Association (OSHA).

Minimum Clearances:

The minimum clearance distance for electrical equipment energized at 50 kV or less shall be 10 feet.

This is because the standards do not test with high winds or ice on the lines. This also does not account for summer heat that makes the wire longer with more sag. APPA Safety Manual Sec. 508.2 C-1

Pruning Objectives for Rural/Remote Locations:

Cuts should be made close to the main stem, outside of the branch bark ridge and branch collar.

ANSI A300 part 1 9.3.2

Tree Care Industry Association (TCIA) identifies that topping trees:

- Leaves large exposed wounds that can become infested;
- Ruins tree structure;
- Removes too much foliage, disrupting the tree's energy storage;
- Stimulates vigorous growth, which is prone to breakage;
- Increases tree maintenance costs; and,
- Destroys a tree's appearance and value.

(Coniferous trees are different in this regard, they will grow upward and will develop a new leader when topped which makes them less disease prone.)

Notifying a Customer for Tree Trimming:

When trimming trees and other vegetation in electric line right-of-way maintenance, the utility shall make a reasonable attempt to contact the landowner a minimum of twenty-four hours prior to beginning of work on the landowner's property. This contact may take the form of a written notice delivered to the land owners residence, a telephone call to the landowner, or an in-person contact. Reasonable effort shall be made by the utility to accommodate a landowner's desire to be present when work is done on his or her property. Emergency repairs are exempted from this notification requirement. (Public Service Commission DOC PSC 113.0510)

Kiel Electric Utility Boxelder Policy:

Although this tree is native to Wisconsin, it is often invasive due to its prolific seed production, its shade tolerance and its ability to send up many vigorous re-sprouts when cut. Kiel Electric Utility reserves the right to remove boxelder trees for this reason if they are in the road right away and near power lines and will then be treated to prevent regrowth. The treatment will be applied according to state law by a Kiel Utilities employee who has a sprayers certification from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection. (Wisconsin DNR Control of Invasive Plants)