

BEDFORD ELECTRIC TREE TRIMMING POLICY

Trees too close to overhead power lines are a hazard and the primary cause of power outages in the Bedford service territory. Trees and tree limbs contacting or falling on overhead electric lines during storms are not only the most common cause of power outages but they present a danger to the public. Bedford Electric wants to work with customers to maintain the safety and reliability of our electric service. Tree crews will work with customers where possible to keep electric lines clear in order to maintain reliable service, they use proper arboriculture methods and the work is done at no cost to you. **It is never a good idea to plant trees or decorative vegetation under power lines, as they may inhibit safe access to this infrastructure.**

ROUTINE TREE TRIMMING POLICY

Right-of-ways (areas under or near transmission and primary power lines) will be cleared of trees and vegetation that pose a risk to energized lines, line workers and equipment. In improved areas, large debris will be cut and removed from the work area unless the property owner requests that it be left behind. In unimproved areas cuttings will be left behind.

EMERGENCY TRIMMING POLICY

When tree trimming is necessary during a storm or emergency restoration, we may not have time or resources to remove debris.

Crews must work quickly to restore power to all customers as soon as possible. Workers will assess each situation to determine what action will safely and quickly restore service to customers. Our crews will cut broken and uprooted trees so line workers may safely make repairs to our infrastructure. Brush and wood are left at the property so they may proceed with restoration work. They may return for clean up if time permits, however in these emergency situations, your community's public works departments, private trash collectors or a professional tree removal service can lend assistance and advice regarding the emergency disposal of brush and other debris.

TREES AND VEGETATION ON YOUR PORPERTY

It is the responsibility of the property owner to keep the service line – wires that run from the pole to your home or business – clear. We recommend hiring a professional tree service to do this trimming.

Bedford Electric will assist the tree trimmer by temporarily shutting off power to the service line so that work can be performed safely. There is no charge for the service to shut off the power.

Customers should call 540-587-6071 at least two days in advance of the work to schedule an appointment to have the power shut off prior to trimming.

UNDERGROUND LINES

In areas where power lines are located underground, transformers and other above-ground equipment are used to connect service. These facilities require regular inspection and periodic maintenance. Workers must have clear access to these facilities at all times for safe restoration of service during outages.

A 10 foot clearance is required from the front of the equipment and 3 foot clearance is required around all other sides.

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

Call 811 before You Dig to allow required time for marking. Respect and protect markers in areas to be excavated. It's a free service that is simple and may save your life. Remember if you are planning any kind of excavation (digging) or demolition to call 811 or 1-800-552-7001 BEFORE you begin.

DECORATIVE SHRUBS, TREES AND OTHER VEGETATION

It's never advisable to plant shrubs, trees and other vegetation under power lines or within 10 feet of poles and other utility infrastructure. Anything within the utility right-of-way will inhibit access to energized equipment slowing restoration in an outage and may pose a safety hazard.