

THE BASICS OF TREE TRIMMING



Electric utilities are allowed to cut back branches & limbs or even entire trees that are in a utility right-of-way & have the potential to damage utility lines & interrupt services

Info by the Office of the Ohio Consumers' Council
www.occ.ohio.gov

WHY DO WE TRIM TREES?

Electric utilities are required to maintain the reliability & safety of their system, which is partly done by keeping tree branches away from their power lines, including those lines located on a consumers' property

HOW MUCH IS TRIMMED & ARE THERE GUIDELINES?

Trimming will usually involve removing branches to allow several feet of clearance around a power line. This policy follows federal health & safety guidelines that help protect tree trimmers that are not certified to work closely with power lines

HOW WILL I KNOW IF TRIMMING IS PLANNED FOR MY STREET?

Notice does not have to be given & includes emergency trimming performed in an effort to restore service after a storm

ARE UTILITY WORKERS ALLOWED TO ENTER MY PROPERTY?

Yes, utility representatives or contractors may enter property to trim any branches that are touching or are close to power lines. It is necessary to enter private property so that the reliability of the power system is maintained & outages are avoided. Utility companies have this right through an "easement"

WHAT ABOUT DROP LINES?

Utility companies do not trim vegetation that follows the path of your drop line. The drop line is the line that runs from the main line to your house. Any interference along this line is the property-owners responsibility

WHAT ABOUT BURIED LINES?

Trees & other vegetation should not be planted within 10 feet of any utility service equipment, including access boxes for buried power lines. Always call 8-1-1 before digging in your yard to avoid buried utility lines

WHAT CAN I DO TO AVOID HAVING MY TREES TRIM?

- When planting trees in your yard, select a location away from power lines
- Check with your local nursery about the correct types of trees for the space you have available. There is also a list of city-approved trees at www.painesville.com/trees
- Each year, trim all trees & bushes that are under & near power lines to keep them from growing toward the lines. Call **440-392-6185** for more info on proper distance trees should be trimmed from the nearest power line