



The Energy Group, Inc. (EG)

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POSITIVE CONTROL

Maintaining Positive Control While Tree Trimming

It is the responsibility of the tree trimmer to always be in positive control of where the tree limbs fall after trimming. Positive control can be achieved by multiple methods and the following list provides a recommended procedure for ensuring positive control:

- When the tree trimmer is making a proper pruner clip and the cut piece is verified to fall to the ground and not fall into a hazard (pieces cut to length shorter than the distance between two adjacent primary or secondary wires of a power line are allowed);
- When the tree trimmer is making a proper tree cut and the cut piece is verified to fall to the ground and not fall into a hazard (pieces cut to length shorter than the distance between two adjacent primary or secondary wires of a power line are allowed);
- When the tree trimmer is using rigging to lower a cut piece away from a hazard;
- When the tree trimmer is handling a limb by hand and throwing the cut piece to a location that is verified to fall to the ground and not fall into a hazard.

If it is not possible to use the listed methods above, then a planned outage may be needed. Contact your General Foreman immediately if a positive control method listed above cannot be managed on the job. The General Foreman will advise the crew on what to do including, coordinate with the customer to schedule the planned outage to safely trim the tree.

When a Planned Outage Should Be Considered

It is every employee's right to initiate Stop Work Authority. The scenarios below define how to initiate Stop Work Authority and when a planned outage should be considered:

If anyone on the crew is questioning the safety, outcome or positive control of the work to be completed, Stop Work Authority can be announced by any member of the crew and must be recognized by all crew members. All work must be immediately stopped, and the hazard discussed. The GF shall also be notified immediately;

- When vines are putting pressure on conductors and or moving them from the original position;
- When vines that are cut cannot be controlled;
- If vines cover trees being trimmed/removed that the limbs cannot be controlled;
- If cutting vines will cause conductors to bounce together;

- If any part of a tree, limb or vine is pushing or pulling a conductor from its normal position;
- When there is at any time no control of limbs falling;
- When the tree is determined to be dead, partially dead or appears to be diseased and cannot support the weight of a climber or the shock of using rigging points on the tree;
- Hazard trees that cannot support the weight of a climber;
- When there are no proper rigging points to safely lower the limb to be cut;
- When trees have significant overhang to power lines and are touching conductors
- When the rigging point is not strong enough to support the limb causing a probable break out of rigging point
- When tools are in close proximity to conductors and may touch the power lines when the tree trimmer is trimming a limb.

Working Near Energized Power Lines

ALL POWER LINES AT ALL TIMES SHALL BE CONSIDERED ENERGIZED!

If you or your crew should encounter a system irregularity including a downed or fallen power line, immediately secure the area and notify your Supervisor as well as an authorized power company representative. Once the area is secure, notify the surrounding property owners of the hazard.

- The area SHALL be protected from all unauthorized people, especially from children and the public. The crew SHALL remain on site until a power company representative arrives or is instructed otherwise by an authorized power company representative.
- When working near an energized line, tree limbs SHALL be considered conductors of electricity.
- Any limbs or branches that may contact power lines SHALL be removed before felling a tree.
- At no time SHALL cut limbs or brush be allowed to contact or cross-energize power lines.
- Any cut limbs that fall and become lodged on or across energized lines SHALL be removed immediately with a non-conductive pruner or work-line. DO NOT use your hands. Vines SHALL be removed only with the aid of a non-conductive pruner.
- Employees SHALL NEVER attempt to install "rubber" sleeves or any other protective covering on energized power lines.