



Tree pruning is an important part of providing safe and reliable electric service. Pacific Power takes pride in having a professional tree maintenance program directed at keeping power lines clear to serve customers.

Trees beautify and improve our environment in all seasons. But for all the good trees do, they can cause power outages. Heavy, wet snow or windy conditions can break branches, which can strain or sever your electric service line from the pole to your house.

### Be safe

Electricity can be dangerous. Improper or careless tree pruning around power lines can cause serious or fatal accidents. For your safety, please remember these important tips:

- Look up! Always check for power lines before pruning trees. Never work on or in trees within 10 feet of high-voltage power lines.
- Do not attempt to remove branches or trees that have fallen on power lines. Contact us toll free at **1-888-221-7070** for help.
- Keep children from climbing or building forts in trees near power lines.
- Before digging holes for planting trees, call 811 to reach your state's free underground utility locating service 48 hours in advance.

Visit [pacificpower.net/safety](http://pacificpower.net/safety) for more information on staying safe around power lines.

### More information

It's important to plant low-growing trees near power lines to reduce the need for future pruning. For information on many kinds of trees and how they can beautify your landscape, review our *Small Trees for Small Places* booklet at [pacificpower.net/trees](http://pacificpower.net/trees). If you'd like to have a tree pruned or removed for landscaping purposes, please consult a certified tree removal contractor to perform the work.



Let's turn the answers on.

# Trees and power lines



Let's turn the answers on.



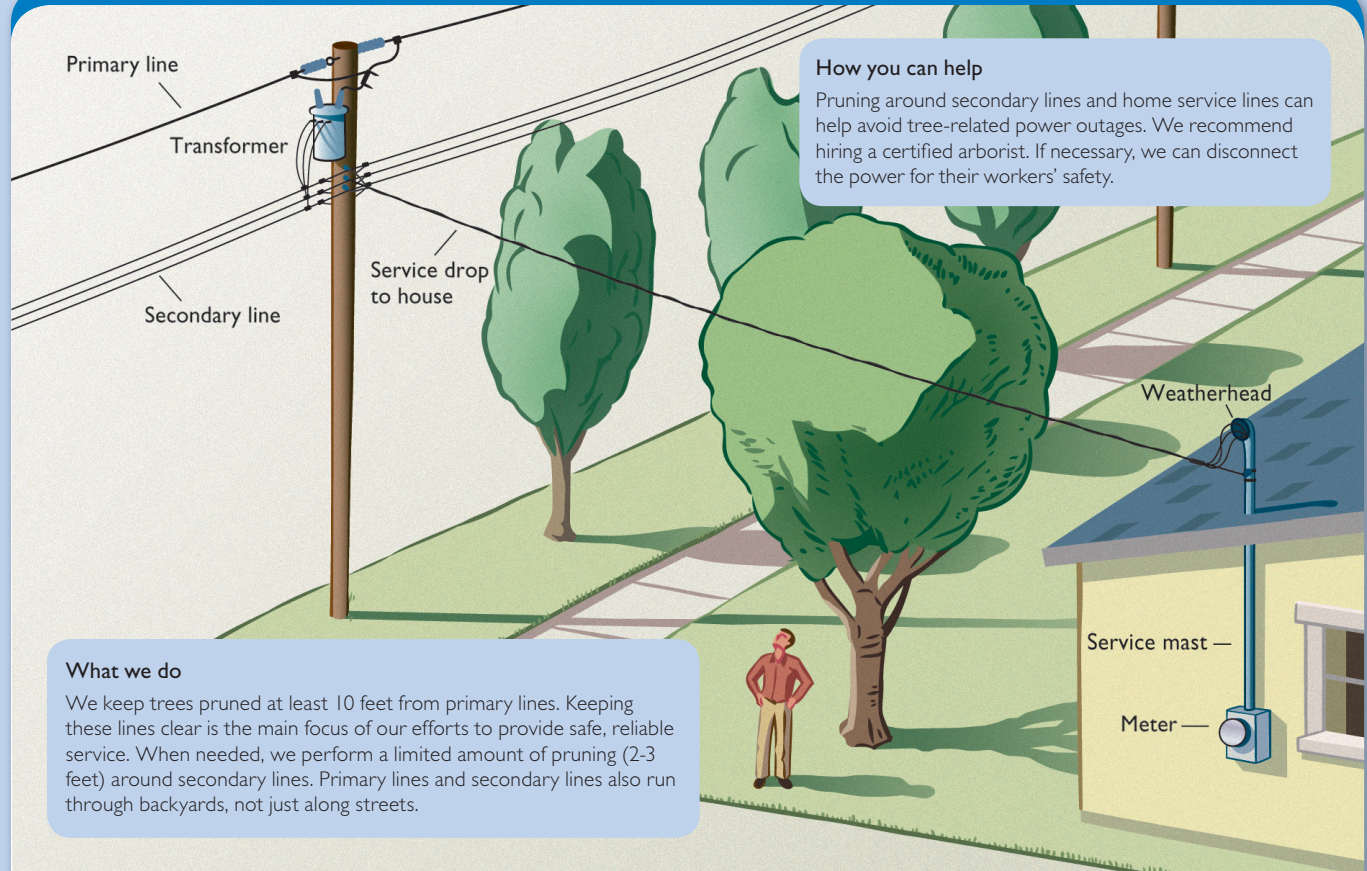
### What we do

Throughout the year our professional arborists and tree crews work to maintain a safe corridor around power lines. Before beginning work, tree crews consider the species, structure, health and growth rate of the tree as well as the voltage of nearby power lines. Crews prune enough to provide at least 10 feet of clearance around primary distribution lines in neighborhoods.

Tree pruning can have a profound effect on the appearance of trees. After pruning, trees are usually asymmetrical.



*Shapes you can expect from properly pruned trees.*



**How you can help**  
Pruning around secondary lines and home service lines can help avoid tree-related power outages. We recommend hiring a certified arborist. If necessary, we can disconnect the power for their workers' safety.

**What we do**  
We keep trees pruned at least 10 feet from primary lines. Keeping these lines clear is the main focus of our efforts to provide safe, reliable service. When needed, we perform a limited amount of pruning (2-3 feet) around secondary lines. Primary lines and secondary lines also run through backyards, not just along streets.

Sometimes the best solution to tree and power line conflicts is tree removal.

We work with neighborhoods to remove problem trees, particularly in cases where they require repeated pruning or are a serious threat to safety or electric service. Pacific Power usually seeks the property owner's written permission prior to tree removal. Coupons are also provided for the purchase of a low-growing replacement tree from a local nursery.

### Limited pruning on your property

We typically do not prune around your home service line (service drop) unless there is a clear threat to electric service. When needed, we perform a limited amount of pruning (only 2-3 feet) around secondary lines.

### What you can do

You can help avoid tree-related power outages by making sure trees in your yard are cared for. If you have overhanging branches that could break or strain the secondary or home service line in heavy snow or windy conditions, consult a certified arborist to get additional clearance from the line. Certified arborists have the appropriate equipment and training to work near power lines and can also help improve the health of your trees. We can disconnect the power for their workers' safety.

Remember, electrical service interruptions caused by vegetation can also affect service to neighboring homes and businesses.