



# A Shared Responsibility: Managing Connecticut's Trees

Eversource is committed to working with municipal leaders, tree owners and the Connecticut Department of Transportation (DOT) to help remove the thousands of dead or defective trees that have been devastated by the invasive Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) and gypsy moth and that are putting Eversource customers' electric service at risk. The impact to Connecticut communities has been significant and continues to grow—the Emerald Ash Borer has affected 136 communities so far and is expected to spread to all remaining towns, while the gypsy moth and drought have caused widespread tree mortality throughout Connecticut.

To help address this crisis, Eversource requested and was granted additional tree removal funding from the Public Utility Regulatory Authority (PURA) for 2019 and 2020. However, these funds are limited only to those trees that threaten the reliability of the electric system. Therefore, managing this unprecedented and widespread tree mortality is a shared responsibility of utilities and tree owners.

## What to Know About Eversource Tree Removal

- Eversource is partnering with municipal leaders and the Connecticut DOT in removing trees that are putting our electric system at risk.
- Our arborists perform tree inspections to assess the health of trees that pose a potential threat to electrical facilities. Due to the magnitude of the issue:
  - Trees are prioritized for removal based on the condition of the tree and the potential impact to Eversource electric customers.
  - Dead and highly defective trees that have the potential to impact a large number of customers have a higher priority than trees having the potential to affect fewer customers.

## Tree Owner Responsibility for All Other Impacted Trees

Dead trees may pose a public safety risk and tree owners can be liable for possible damage or injury. Therefore:

- Eversource recommends that towns consider inventorying their trees, prioritize them and address the greatest safety risks, and consider building municipal budgets to address tree removal based on a sound roadside forest management plan.
- Eversource customers are responsible for pruning and removing trees on their property that may impact the service lines from the street to the meter, and for removing trees on their property that pose a hazard to neighbors, pedestrians and roads.
- Tree owners should seek a CT Licensed Arborist at [ctpa.org](http://ctpa.org), and woodland owners should seek a Connecticut Certified Forester at [ct.gov/deep](http://ct.gov/deep).

## For More Information

- For more information on gypsy moths, go to the Gypsy Moth Fact Sheet at [ct.gov/case](http://ct.gov/case), and for information on the Emerald Ash Borer, go to EAB information at [ct.gov/deep](http://ct.gov/deep).
- Plan Before You Plant; set up newly planted trees for success. Visit [www.eversource.com](http://www.eversource.com) and select Outages & Storms and then Tree Trimming for Plan Before You Plant guidelines, and suggestions on planting compatible trees near power lines.

**EVERSOURCE**

## Routine Maintenance Tree Work

### Tree Trimming Helps Prevent Outages

- The goal of Eversource's Routine Maintenance Tree Work is to prevent power outages by removing branches and trees that are either too close to power lines, or pose a risk of falling on power lines.
- All work is performed in accordance with professional tree care industry standards and best practices.

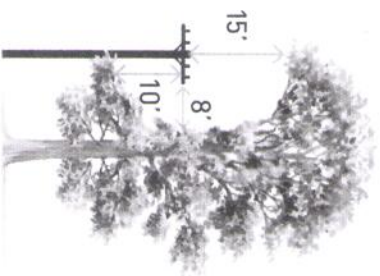
### Clearance Specifications

- Specifications are 15 feet above utility equipment, 10 feet below and 8 feet to the side. Tall-growing trees under power lines are selectively removed.

- Branches are cut according to national standards to reduce harm to the tree and limit re-sprouting; limbs are removed at main branching points or the main trunk.

### Risk Trees

- Hazardous or "risk" trees are those that can fall on or contact power lines and cause an outage.
- Tree work professionals determine a tree's risk potential based on its species, location, health and structural composition.
- Eversource arborists prioritize the removal of risk trees to minimize their ability to cause an outage. If a tree must be removed, it is cut as low to the ground as possible.



A hazardous tree is any tree or part of a tree that is dead, extensively decayed or structurally weak, which, if it falls, would endanger utility infrastructure, facilities or equipment.

## We Need Your Consent to Improve Reliability

Effective communication is key to superior customer service. That's why Eversource seeks property owner approval in advance of performing Routine Tree Maintenance.

Please review the enclosed form for details about reliability improvement work proposed on or near your property. Please sign the form, place it back inside the door hanger, and hang it on your door for an Eversource contractor to collect.

### Options Available to You

If you have questions about the proposed work, please contact the Eversource contractor listed on the enclosed form. You may also call the Eversource Customer Care Center at 800-286-2000 or the Eversource Business Contact Center at 888-783-6617, or email us directly at [treeCT@eversource.com](mailto:treeCT@eversource.com).

### For trees that hang over the public right-of-way, you may ask for additional consultation:

- If you live on a town road, please contact your local tree warden through your town or city hall. A list of tree warden addresses is in the door hanger.
- If you live on a state road, please contact the state Department of Transportation (DOT), Commissioner's Office, 2800 Berlin Turnpike, Newington, CT 06131.

If you do NOT grant approval for the tree work, or wish to modify the proposed tree work, please submit a written objection to Eversource and either your local tree warden at the address shown on the list in the door hanger, or the DOT if you live on a state road. You must send your objection within 10 business days of receiving notice. Your local tree warden or the DOT will review your objection and render a written decision within 10 business days. Both you and Eversource may further appeal that decision to the state Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) within 10 business days.

To appeal, contact PURA at 10 Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051. PURA will hold a mediation session within 30 days of an appeal, or an arbitration hearing within 60 days, to reach a resolution.

If you object to the proposed pruning or removal, you will not be billed for damage to Eversource power lines or equipment caused by trees on your property that fall, regardless of the outcome of an appeal.

## 2017 Eversource Wood QRG

Wood left on the public right of way must be removed within 10 working days.

If wood is scheduled for pick up leave in log lengths.

the customer has agreed to keep the wood, leave it in the agreed upon length.

Don't leave wood where it could block a waterway or storm drain.

Leave wood so it doesn't create a hazard:

- A safe distance from the road
- So it doesn't roll down a slope

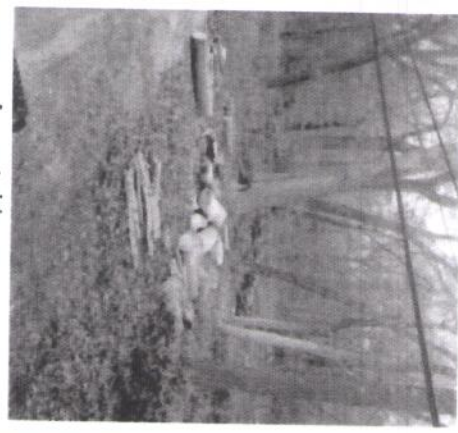
Don't leave wood piled on stone walls.

Chip all the wood that will go through the chipper.

Stumps should be a maximum of 3" high or as close to the ground as possible.

Leave the wood in a neat and orderly fashion.

Treat the customer's property as if it were your own!

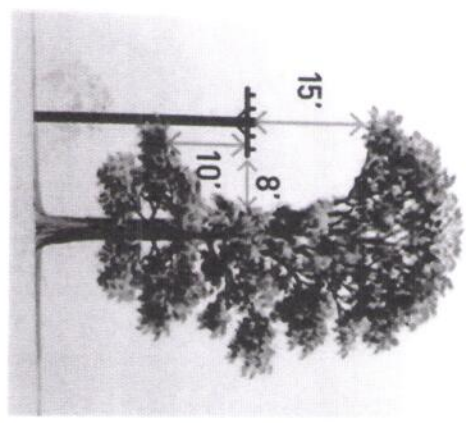


Acceptable

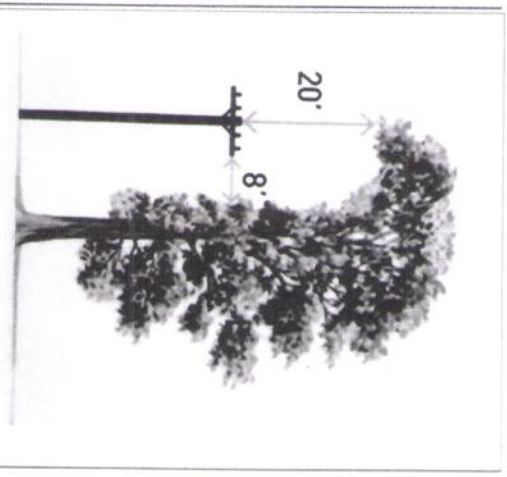


Unacceptable

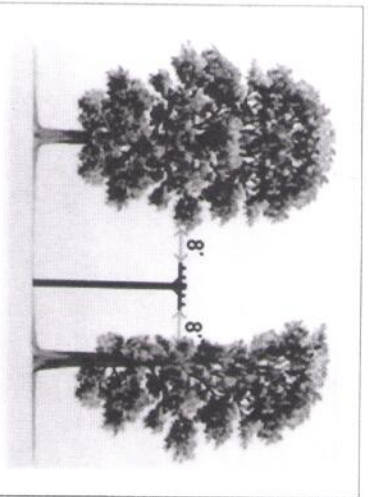
## Safety First and Always



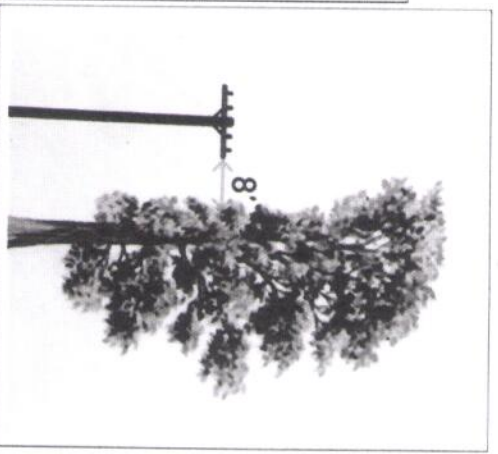
SMT



METT



ETT



METT