

# *Hickman Electric System*

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## **Tree Maintenance Policy**

In an attempt to reduce electric service outages, comply with the National Electric Safety Code, and promote customer power line safety, Hickman Electric system must regularly trim and remove trees growing near electric distribution lines. A three-year inspection and trimming rotation will be conducted on all the circuits of the distribution and transmission system to prevent safety issues of arcing from power lines to close proximity trees. Trees can conduct electrical current, arcing from power lines to trees could cause injury or even death for anyone in contact with the tree. Remember always survey an area for power lines when conducting tree cutting on your property and maintain a safe distance from any trees or other objects that have come into contact with power lines. Electric lines on the ground due to storm or contact from other objects, could still be energized, and should be avoided until utility personnel have tested and made safe.

Hickman Electric will maintain a minimum of a 10-foot boundary between the sides of high voltage distribution lines and surrounding trees and shrubs. Trees and tall growing shrubs will be removed or trimmed utilizing modern arborists methods. Hickman Electric will use lateral trimming to promote tree growth away from power lines. Any tree with the trunk located within the 10-foot boundary will be removed. The trunk of the tree will be cut as close to possible to the ground level and will not be stump ground by the utility. Trees with the trunk outside of the 10-foot boundary with limbs extending into or above the boundary will be laterally trimmed to the collar of the limb. All trimmed tree limbs will be cleaned from the customers property.

Trees that are not endangering high voltage distribution lines or other Hickman Electric property will not be trimmed or removed. Trees that are in contact with service wires (the wire between the house and the transformer) are the home owner's responsibility to maintain. During normal business hours, Hickman Electric will respond to requests to disconnect services wires to promote safe trimming and removal operations at no charge. Recommendations for planting new trees include selecting small to medium sized trees and planting at least forty feet from existing powerlines.