



Tree Trimming Program

NES is committed to providing safe, reliable, and affordable electric service to more than 400,000 customers each day. This essential service is provided through a well-designed and –maintained power delivery system which distributes electricity to the greater Nashville area.

We understand the importance of safe & reliable power in keeping our lives running smoothly. That's why tree trimming is so important. Since our VM program began, tree related outages have dropped significantly.

Trimming Guidelines

How NES Trims Trees

Our Tree Trimming program is an integral part of the power delivery system. We work diligently to manage vegetation growth along each circuit on our system every three to four years. This Planned Cycle Maintenance helps us minimize outages from vegetation growing into equipment or the potential risks for falling onto equipment. At the completion of the cycle, we begin again.

NES follows the lateral pruning method developed by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) and approved by the National Arborist Association, the National Arbor Day Foundation and the Metro Tree Ordinance.

Lateral pruning leaves the overall structure of the tree stronger and more resistant to high winds and heavy ice while directing future growth away from NES equipment. NES does not promote "topping" or "rounding over" pruning malpractices. These are discouraged because they leave the tree weakened and susceptible to insects and disease.

NES follows the Lateral Pruning Method which includes:

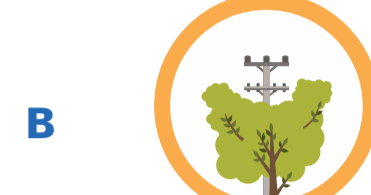
A—Overhang Pruning

For road-accessible distribution circuits, overhang may be allowed. In approved locations, the clearance shall be a minimum of 15' above primary. For higher voltage transmission lines, no overhang is acceptable.



B—"V Pruning"

When high voltage wires run above or through a tree, V-pruning may be selected to allow branches or stems on either side to grow away from the lines. See Tree Removal information as that is typically the best option in this scenario.



C—Side Pruning

For trees growing adjacent to power lines, we remove branches that are above, below, or encroaching from the sides to gain the clearance necessary to account for growth during the trim cycle.



Did you know?

NES transports power through more than 5,700 miles of distribution lines. That's roughly equal to the distance between Nashville and Athens.



We're in This Together

NES partners with the Metro Tree Advisory Committee, the Nashville Tree Foundation, the Tennessee Urban Forestry Council and the Tennessee Environmental Council.



Give Us a Call

For more information, review our list of common questions or call our Tree Trimming Hotline at 615-695-7400 (Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.).

Communications Process

We Want You To Be Informed

As a public power provider, NES is not obligated to notify or seek approval from individual property owners to perform planned cycle maintenance. However, we want you to be informed so NES utilizes several avenues to communicate with property owners before work is done.

We plan post card mail outs and Interactive Voice Recordings for all customers on a circuit. Field personnel are available to discuss, by phone or in person, work that is planned on your property. Door hangers are left if no one answers the door during our pre-planning or work completion. We also have a dedicated Tree Trimming Hotline number (615-695-7400) for all vegetation related questions.



Removals & Plantings

NES requires a safety maintenance zone around each pole which extends at least a ten-foot radius within which all vegetation will be removed.

When power lines are located at the side or rear of a property that are not accessible from a paved or gravel surface NES requires that all vegetation within an area five to ten feet wide (depending on line construction) each side of the pole line be removed. For safety purposes this area must be maintained clear of trees or woody shrubs. Vegetation outside this area will be trimmed or removed selectively.

NES will work with property owners to maintain proper clearances in landscaped areas but retains the right to remove non-compatible vegetation in landscaped areas.

Vines growing on NES poles, guy wires, or other utility equipment are not acceptable and will be addressed but will not be pulled down.

Pad Mount transformers have a sticker on the box depicting a six foot clearance for the front door and three foot clearance on each side.

NES Tree Planting Program

Trees growing directly under or within fifteen feet of power lines are difficult to trim and retain its natural aesthetics. In these situations, it is often best to remove the tree. The site and scenario will be reviewed to determine inclusion in the tree planting program.

NES uses this program to promote the "Right Tree in the Right Place" and to add beauty to our neighborhoods.

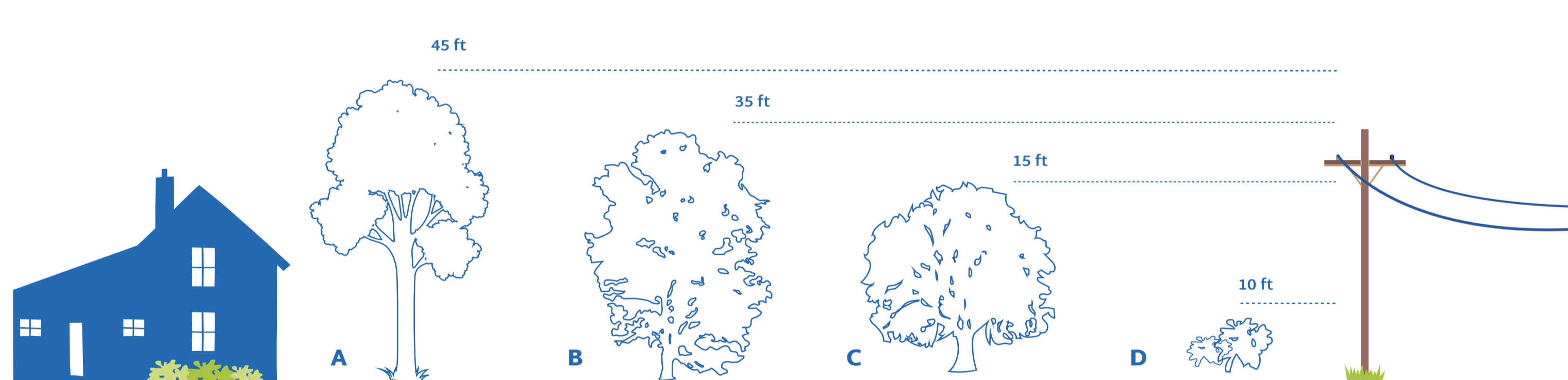
Since our Tree Planting program began in 1989, NES has planted more than 65,000 trees and has contributed to many thousands more plantings in the greater Nashville area through our corporate partnerships and sponsorships.

Our Partners Extend a Branch

NES partners with the Metro Tree Advisory Committee, the Nashville Tree Foundation, Tennessee Environmental Council and the Tennessee Urban Forestry Council.

Planting Guidelines

Planting the Right Tree in the Right Place



A) LARGE TREES MATURE HEIGHT OVER 50'

Sugar Maple
Bald Cypress & Dawn
Redwood
Green Giant Arborvitae
Red Oaks (Shumard, Southern)
Southern Magnolia
White Oaks (Bur, Chinkapin)

B) MEDIUM TREES MATURE HEIGHT UP TO 50'

American Yellowwood
Black Gum (Black Tupelo)
Elm (Lacebark, Princeton)
Hollies (American, Foster #2)
Magnolias (Saucer, Star, Sweetbay)
October Glory Maple

C) SMALL TREES MATURE HEIGHT UP TO 30'

Redbuds
Crepe Myrtle
Trident Maple, Paperbark Maple
Flowering Cherries
Flowering Dogwoods
Nellie R. Stevens Holly

D) SHRUBS MATURE HEIGHT UP TO 20'

Viburnums (Doubledfile, Leatherleaf)
American Beautyberry
Emerald Green Arborvitae
Flowering Forsythia
Glossy Abelia
Schip Laurels

Call 811 Before Planting to Learn Where Underground Lines, Pipes and Cables are Buried in Your Yard.

Call 811 Before You Dig

With one phone call you can learn where underground lines, pipes and cables are buried in your yard. Digging without this information is dangerous, and it could be costly.

For more information, go to Tnonecall.com.

FAQS

Are tree crews working in my neighborhood?

You will receive a postcard, voicemail message and/or notice on your door when crews are scheduled to work in your neighborhood. Communication is a crucial element of our vegetation management program. We will make every attempt to keep you informed throughout the process. If you have questions, call our tree trimming hotline at 615-695-7400.

Why does NES trim trees?

Our tree program is key to preventing power outages. Since the program began, tree-related outages have dropped significantly. Removing vegetation from around NES equipment also helps keep our workers and the public safe. When tree limbs grow near overhead electrical wires, they can contact the wires and become energized. A live tree conducts electricity because of its sap and water content. Water is an excellent conductor of electricity. Trees and wires are dangerous. That electrical power is strong enough to injure or kill humans.

1. Look for power lines before pruning trees and large shrubs. If lines are near, do not attempt any tree work.
2. Never climb a tree where limbs can come into contact with overhead electrical wires.
3. Never extend long-handled saws or pruners into a tree without checking for power lines.
4. Do not move ladders or long-handled pruning tools around the yard without first looking up.

NES prunes trees that could interfere with power lines or equipment. Our trimmers have the necessary training, qualifications and equipment to work near the lines. Pruning trees maintains clear access to our electrical equipment and wires, and this clearance helps to keep our workers and the public safe.

How are trees trimmed?

Our goal is to keep trees healthy while making sure they don't interfere with power lines.

Who cleans up the debris after trimming?

During normal trimming, our contractors will remove and/or chip tree limbs and debris from your property. However, NES does not remove tree debris caused by a storm, tree or limb failure or for

Will NES ever cut down a tree?

Trees growing directly under or close to power lines can be difficult to trim. In some cases, it is best to remove the tree. Candidates for tree removal are assessed on an individual basis. Please contact the tree trimming hotline at 615-695-7400 if you have concerns about a tree near the power lines.

Can NES legally trim trees?

Courts in Tennessee uphold a public utility's right to trim and remove trees, both within and outside of the right-of-way. According to the Municipal Electric Plant Law of 1935 and the Metro Charter, Appendix III, Article 42, NES has the power to purchase, construct, maintain and improve the electric system and to "do all acts and things necessary and convenient" to carry out the power given.

Will NES trim around the light on my property?

NES only trims for necessary maintenance on street or private lights as well as the secondary lines that serve them. NES does not trim for the light pattern.

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Where can I get more information on Emerald Ash Borer and Ash tree devastation?

You can find more information in our Emerald Ash Borer brochure, or on the Metro Nashville and State of Tennessee websites.

Who can I contact for additional questions?

Call our tree trimming hotline at 615-695-7400 (Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.).

Need Assistance?

Call our tree trimming hotline at 615-695-7400 (Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.).

For timely outage updates, follow us on Twitter and Facebook @NESpower.