Tree Maintenance Crews Are Coming to Your Neighborhood

WHY? Pepco is committed to providing our customers with safe, reliable electricity in a cost-effective manner. Pruning trees allows us to maintain reliable electric service. Pepco follows the American National Standards Institute arborist standard for tree pruning. Tree maintenance is also vital to public safety! Tree failures can easily cause power outages, which we strive to avoid. Keeping trees properly pruned also minimizes the possibility of downed wires, electrical contact and electrical fires, all of which can be dangerous to the public. They can also damage or kill healthy trees.

An effective tree maintenance program is critical to our successful delivery of your electric service. Pepco prunes trees that are growing near or interfering with our overhead lines and other equipment to prevent interruption of electrical service. As a last resort, dead or damaged trees must sometimes be removed. There is no charge for these services, and Pepco removes all the debris up to 6 inches in diameter from routine scheduled tree maintenance.

WHEN? Routine tree maintenance is scheduled to begin in your neighborhood starting:

DATE: _____

WHAT? Type of Work Required:

- ☑ Routine scheduled pruning
- ☐ Top tree for removal
- ☐ Complete tree removal
- ☐ Prune service drop
- ☐ Reported problem does not involve Pepco equipment
- ☐ Reported problem involves cable/phone facilities
- ☐ Reported problem can wait for future routine maintenance
- ☐ Herbicide application
- ☐ This visit was in response to your inspection request

☐ **An URGENT condition exists!**
Please call the person below as soon as possible!

CALL: _____

ATTENTION, CUSTOMERS!

This brochure serves as notice of pending line clearance services in your area. If you have questions about the scheduled work, please call the person noted on the front of this brochure within three business days. Unless we hear from you, we will proceed with our planned tree work so we can complete our line clearance in an efficient, cost-effective manner.

WHAT IS TREE LINE USA?

Tree Line USA is a program of the National Arbor Day Foundation that evaluates electric utility company's vegetation management programs on several aspects of environmental stewardship. Pepco has received this designation every year since 2001.

DIRECTIONAL OR LATERAL PRUNING

The term "lateral" is derived from the method of cutting a branch back to the next limb or lateral growing branch (see figure 1), which mimics the way trees self prune their branches in a forest. This reduces the number of fast growing, multiple sprouts and directs future growth of the tree away from the power lines. Lateral pruning involves removing only the branches that may endanger electrical wires. This selective pruning of specific branches retains more of the trees natural crown, a method proven to be healthier for the tree than arbitrary topping. Wire location, limb size, or branch configuration may

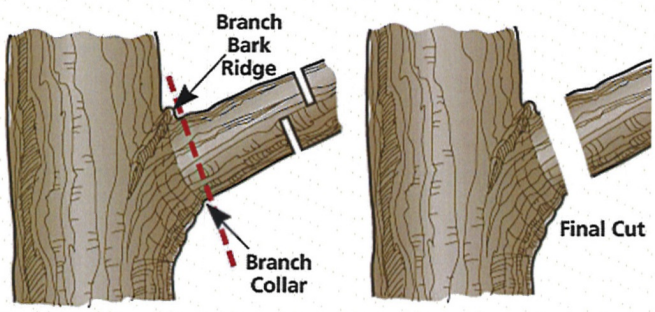

Figure 1

make it necessary to remove limbs back to the tree's trunk. The tree species, its position in relation to our electric facilities, and the line voltage are all factors in determining how much limb removal is required.

Figures 2 and 3 show the basic forms that lateral pruning can take depending upon where the tree is in relation to the power lines.

Figure 2

When trees are planted directly underneath power lines, branches must be cut back until a fork (crotch) in the tree is reached (see figure 2). This is a natural junction that allows the arborist to direct growth away and permits large trees to coexist with power lines.

If the tree is next to power lines, then lateral cuts are made to direct the growth back and away from the power lines (see figure 3). Branches above the power lines are directed up and back, while those below the power lines are directed down and back or removed to the trunk. Future pruning refines this procedure.

Figure 3

WHAT ABOUT TREE REMOVAL?

Often, it is necessary to remove a tree rather than prune it. Removal might be required where a tree is near our primary wires and it is dying or leaning toward them; or if it is a fast-growing/weak-wooded tree such as a Sycamore, Silver Maple, Willow, Poplar, or Pine. If a tree needs to be removed we encourage replacement trees to be low-growing species if planted back in the same place (see Right Tree, Right Place section).

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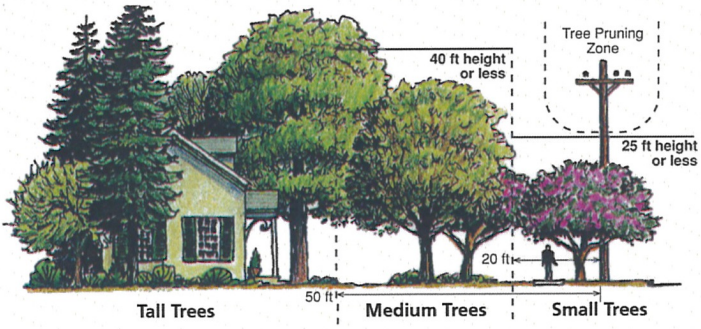

Right Tree, Right Place

YOU CAN PREVENT FUTURE TREE-ELECTRIC LINE PROBLEMS

Trees help make our environment beautiful. They brighten our neighborhoods and lend shade to our sidewalks and homes. But even the most beautiful tree can turn "ugly" when it's planted in the wrong place. When a tree, that will grow too large or too tall, is planted under or near electric power lines, for example, that beautiful tree can cause power outages, property damage or even injury to people or animals.

The National Arbor Day Foundation advocates a policy of "right tree, right place," under which all trees are planted where they can thrive and will not interfere with essential public infrastructure such as electric power lines. Pepco advocates this policy as well and has been certified as a Tree Line USA Utility since 2001. Please see the National Arbor Day Foundation for more information on the Tree Line USA program. Here's a helpful guide to the right tree, right place approach.

Tall Trees Tall trees such as Maple, Sycamore, Oak, Spruce, Pine and Birch should be planted well away from wires – more than 50 feet to the side.

Medium Trees Medium trees that grow to a height of 40 feet or less, such as Honey locust, Serviceberry or Hornbeam, should be planted at least 20 feet from power lines.

Small Trees Small trees that grow slowly and to no more than 25 feet in height, such as dogwood, flowering cherry, crabapple, purple leaf plum and Japanese red maple are recommended for areas close to power lines.

QUESTIONS?

For answers to your questions about tree maintenance or to get a copy of Pepco's brochure, "Trees and Electrical Service," call 202-833-7500 or visit pepco.com and click on "brochures." Our Web site also includes informative videos that demonstrate actual tree maintenance operations.

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