



Tree Removal Request

DATE: _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

DAYTIME PH: _____

ACCESS TO TREE— SHOW SKETCH

REMOVE TRIM

PROPERTY CORNERS IN PLACE? VERIFY OWNERSHIP

KIND OF TREE: _____

IS TREE DEAD? _____

TREE MARKED WITH RED PAINTED X

WOOD:

HAUL AWAY

STACK IN TWO-FOOT LENGTHS

DAMAGES TO LAWNS, ETC. BY EQUIPMENT ARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PROPERTY OWNER UNLESS CAUSED BY NEGLIGENCE.

DESIRED TIME OF YEAR TO BE DONE:

SIGNATURE OF PROPERTY OWNER:

NOTE: Tree removals are normally done between December 1 and March 31. Trees will be trimmed on an emergency basis only from April 1 through December 1. Only trees interfering with city power lines will be trimmed.

Buffalo Utilities recommends that only shrubs or low-growing tree species be planted near power lines. For more information and a list of recommended tree species, call us at **763-682-5370**.

If you have underground utility lines, be careful not to locate any tree or shrub in front of electrical Equipment installed at ground level. When power outages occur, our crews need to locate and access Equipment quickly. Obstructions will delay the restoration of your service and could result in damage to your plantings.

Call before you dig

Remember underground utility lines can present serious safety risks when planting trees and shrubs. Call this number **651-454-0002** for the exact location of underground electric and natural gas service, cable television and phone lines before

you start digging.

TREE REMOVAL / TRIMMING REQUEST FORM



Buffalo Utilities Department

212 Central Avenue
Buffalo, MN 55313

Phone: 763-682-1001

Utilities Department
212 Central Avenue
Buffalo, MN 55313
763-682-1001

TREE PRUNING NEAR POWER LINES

Keeping your power on

Trees can be a beautiful addition to your landscaping. However, trees growing near power lines can be a safety hazard and are a major contributor of electric service interruptions nationwide. That's why Buffalo Utilities prunes trees near power lines in your community. Tree pruning is the selective removal of branches that are not an adequate distance from power lines, or that will grow too close to the power line before the next maintenance cycle. Our goal is to provide safe, reliable electric service, while also taking the best possible care of one of your community's valuable natural resources.

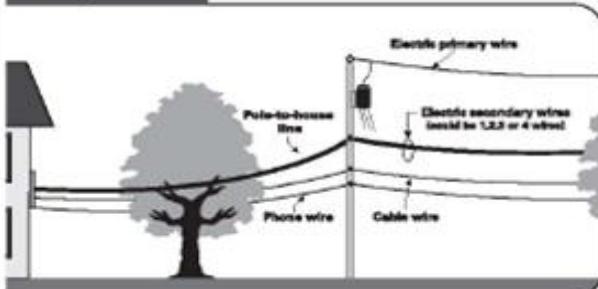
We attempt to maintain trees on appropriate cycles as a proactive approach to preventing power outages. We also respond to emergency situations such as storm restoration. Buffalo Utilities maintenance program is based on a number of factors, including the voltage of our lines (see Figure 1), Power line construction, tree growth rates and the historic impact trees have had on electric service in your area.

Clearance depends on voltage

Primary wires, usually located at the top of a pole, can serve hundreds of customers and carry 4,000 to 35,000 volts of electricity. So for reliability and safety reasons, Buffalo Utilities goal is to prevent trees from coming into contact with them. Only qualified personnel can prune trees near these wires.

Secondary wires, located just beneath primary wires and sometimes strung in groups of two, three or fours, carry lower voltage—usually 240 volts—to fewer customers. Not all branches near these wires need to be removed. Only qualified personnel can prune trees near these wires.

Figure 1



Pole-to-house lines have the least impact on large-scale power outages, so Buffalo Utilities does not trim for clearance along these lines, except when hazardous conditions exist. Remember, pole-to-house are fully energized and extremely dangerous. You may hire a qualified professional tree trimmer to perform this work in some areas. Call Buffalo Utilities at **763-682-1001** to request that your pole-to-house line be temporarily disconnected while you trim your trees or have pruning performed by a professional arborist.

Other wires, including those for telephone and cable television, also may be located on the poles that lead to your home. *Buffalo Utilities does not trim for clearance around these wires.*

Tree growth rates impact clearance

Each tree species grows differently, so Buffalo Utilities prunes more from fast-growing trees than from slow growing ones. The required clearance varies depending on the type of tree and its growing conditions as well as the voltage and construction of the power line.

Some fast-growing trees, such as cottonwoods and willows, have weak, brittle wood and often cause power outages during storms or strong winds. They require more clearance from power lines than some other trees. Overhanging branches are a major cause of power outages, so our primary goal is to remove branches that overhang the wires. We also target the removal of fast-growing tree species (such as cottonwoods, willows, poplars, elms and silver maples) that are located directly under primary wires while the trees are still relatively small. You may receive a request for permission from Buffalo Utilities or our contractors to remove such trees.

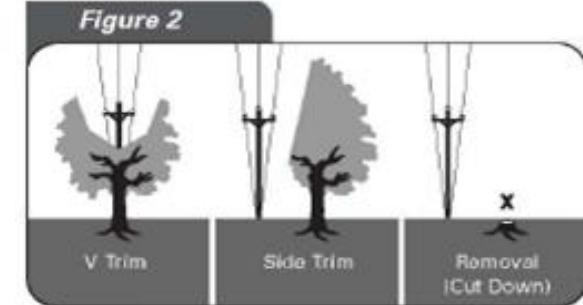
Tree pruning techniques

When we must prune trees away from power lines, we use a method known as "natural directional pruning." If the tree is planted directly under power lines, its branches will be pruned from the center of the tree, creating a "V" shape (see figure 2) in many situations. Entire branches are removed to encourage the tree to grow away from the lines rather than directly into them. Side pruning is done when only a side portion of the tree is growing into the power lines. When side V pruning is necessary, even proper pruning techniques may leave trees with an unnatural appearance. In some cases, it may be better to remove the tree and start over with a more compatible tree.

Tree removal

When circumstances call for removal, a Buffalo

Figure 2

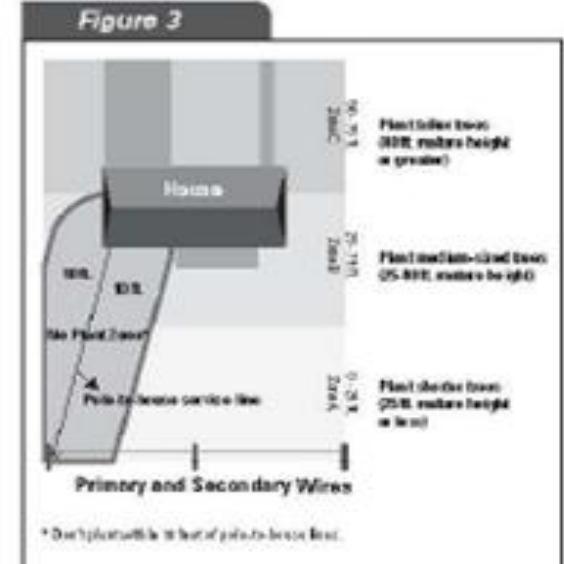


Utility representative will contact you. In an emergency or a hazardous situation, however, that may not be possible. When Buffalo Utilities removes a tree, we cut it as close to the ground as practical, but we do not grind out the stump. We typically treat the stump with an EPA-approved herbicide to prevent resprouting. **Large limbs and logs will be cut into manageable lengths and left on site.** Of course, planting the right tree in the right place avoids pruning and tree removal altogether.

Responsible tree planting

To help ensure electric service reliability and public safety in your neighborhood, use the "zone approach" when planting new trees (see Figure 3). No trees should be planted within 10 feet of the service line to your home or business, which is the line between the pole and the house or building. Larger trees must be planted even farther away from the primary and secondary wires that run along backyards, alleys, roadways. Generally, the taller the tree will become, the farther it should be from any power lines.

Figure 3



* Do not plant under 10 ft of pole-to-house line.