



Electricity and Tree Care Work



Session Objectives



- Understand the risks of tree work near sources of electricity
- Know how to prepare for working with potential hazards
- Comply with OSHA rules and keep yourself and other workers safe

Be Prepared



- Contact with electricity is one of the leading causes of death for tree care workers
- Understand potential hazards
- Before any work begins, survey the area for hazards
- Have an emergency plan
- Electricity can travel through the ground in some cases where you don't expect it
- Ensure you and other employees wear properly insulated footwear and other required PPE.
- Consider asking the utility company to de-energize nearby power lines.

Follow Safe Work Practice

- Maintain a distance of at least 10 feet from overhead lines (and more than 10 feet if the voltage to ground is over 50 kV (see 29 CFR 1910.333(c)(3)(i)); workers should not rely solely on protective clothing to protect against electrical hazards.
- Ensure that you or other employees have no direct contact with an energized conductor, such as a power line.
- Ensure there is no indirect contact with an energized conductor, such as a tree limb or tool touching a power line.
- Ensure that you or other employees are not standing close to grounding elements. The power can travel through the ground

Providing the Right Gear

- Employers must provide proper gloves and shoes for hazards present where tree work is being performed.
- When electrical hazards are present, employers must also provide rope that is free of moisture and contaminants and that provides appropriate insulation.
- Always provide fall protection for climbers.



Be Alert

- Assume that all lines are energized at all times.
- Anticipate when limbs might fall onto power sources.
- It only takes a moment for a fatality to occur.



OSHA Requirements

- **Employees that are hired to clear trees from power lines must follow applicable OSHA requirements:**
 - **29 CFR 1910.268**
 - **29 CFR 1910.269**
 - **29 CFR 1910 Subpart S.**
- **Remember, it is the employer's responsibility to comply with OSHA rules and keep workers safe**



Key Points to Remember

- **Be sure that you and others around you know the risks of tree work near sources of electricity**
 - **Be prepared**
 - **Follow safe work practices**
 - **Wear the right gear**
 - **Be alert**



TAKE THE QUIZ



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