

vegetation management FAQ

Pacific Power routinely patrols power lines and equipment for potential interference from tree limbs and other vegetation. In certain areas, we may conduct additional inspections and make corrections to help prevent wildfires.

How do Pacific Power crews prune trees in neighborhoods?

- We hire professional arborists to maintain a safe corridor around power lines. They use natural pruning methods, consistent with industry best practices, to achieve needed clearance distances and to maintain the health of trees.
- In addition to pruning, trees not intentionally planted as part of the landscape that measure less than six inches in diameter will be removed and treated with herbicide.
- If a customer or property owner would like a tree pruned or removed for landscaping purposes, they will need to hire a private tree removal contractor to perform the work.

Does Pacific Power remove trees? If so, under what circumstances?

- Sometimes the best solution for preventing a tree from contacting power lines is to remove it. Tree removal is especially important where pruning alone cannot achieve safe clearance around power lines.
- When the tree is located on a residential property, we generally seek the property owner's written permission prior to tree removal. Coupons may also be provided to help landowners buy low-growing replacement trees.
- In cases in which sites are not suitable for pruning, we use specialized equipment, such as mowers, to remove the trees and brush.

What happens after Pacific Power trims trees and brush?

- Brush piles are typically left when the work being conducted is greater than 100 feet from a road where a chipper can be safely used.
- The piles are no more than two feet in height, which is consistent with best practices of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service.
- Our contractors will leave the wood from felled trees in manageable lengths ranging from six to eight feet long.
- This wood is the property of the landowner.



Contracted professional arborists inspecting and clearing a hazardous tree during vegetation management activities.

vegetation management FAQ

What about “slash” left behind after vegetation management activities?

- In urban areas, “slash,” or trimmings less than six inches in diameter, along with vegetation such as limbs, leaves and pine needles, is generally chipped and removed from the site unless an agreement has been reached with the property owner to leave it.
- Slash may be left temporarily, provided the crew has notified the property owner and made arrangements to clean it up to the property owner’s reasonable satisfaction.
- In rural, off-road areas, slash may be disposed of on-site.
- All slash should be cut into maximum lengths of three feet and scattered in piles no more than two feet high.
- Limbs greater than six inches in diameter and brush should be piled separately.
- If brush is chipped, it may be deposited on-site, provided that resulting chip piles are no higher than two feet.

How do I know when Pacific Power will be in my area performing vegetation management?

- Contractors perform visual inspections of our equipment from the ground or using helicopters and drones in areas that need to be addressed to maintain compliance with applicable regulations and PacifiCorp standards and specifications.
- The inspector will try to contact landowners as needed to inform them of vegetation management activities.
- When a tree is identified for removal, the inspector will leave a door card and make a reasonable number of attempts to make personal contact with the customer to gain consent (written permission) to cut down the tree.
- In cases not involving tree removal, the customer will be notified by a door hanger indicating that vegetation management work is needed.
- Customers may contact the inspector with any questions regarding the work to be conducted (contact information is on the door card/door hanger).
- When tree crews come to the property to conduct the work, they will attempt to notify the customer that they have arrived through a courtesy knock at the home.

Who can I contact at Pacific Power if I have concerns about vegetation near power lines? What does the process look like?

- If customers have concerns, we encourage them to contact our customer service call center at **1-888-221-7070** or email PacificPowerVegMgmt@pacificcorp.com
- A ticket is then generated and routed to the appropriate district.
- Our goal is to contact customers within 10 business days and resolve concerns soon after.
- Sometimes investigations are needed, necessitating a longer resolution time, but the company works to ensure there is communication throughout the process to keep customers updated.

Where can I learn more about Pacific Power’s vegetation management activities?

- Visit www.PacificPower.net/Trees for more information on vegetation management.
- Download our “Small Trees for Small Places” guide: <https://tinyurl.com/mrx7z467>



Contracted professional arborists surveying trees and underlying vegetation in preparation for clearing and maintenance.