# Tree Trimming & Removal

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## TOPIC: Tree Trimming & Removal

### Avoid Electrical Hazards

- Assume all power lines are energized; contact the utility company to discuss de-energizing and grounding or shielding power lines
- Do NOT perform trimming or removal within 10 feet of a power line is you are not an experienced line-clearance tree trimmer
- Never work without a second trimmer in range of your voice
- Know and maintain the proper minimum approach distances when working around energized power lines
- Use extreme caution when moving ladders and equipment around downed trees and power lines

### Stay Alert and Aware

- Watch for and do not work in dangerous weather conditions
- Before working, perform a hazard assessment of the work area
- Eliminate or minimize hazards at the tree and its surroundings
- Never turn your back on a falling tree
- Be alert and avoid objects thrown back by a tree as it falls
- Inspect tree limbs for strength and stability before climbing

### Use Proper Technique

- Operate chain saws or other equipment only if you are trained and the equipment is properly maintained
- Use personal protective equipment such as gloves, safety glasses, hard hats, hearing protection, etc., as recommended in the manufacture's operating manual
- Determine the proper amount of hinge wood needed to safely guide the tree's fall, and plan a retreat path to a safe location
- When working at an elevation, use appropriate fall protection
- Do not climb with tools in your hands
- If a broken tree is under pressure, determine the direction of the pressure and make small cuts to relieve it
- Use extreme care when felling a tree that is lodged against another tree

**Discussion Date:** _____

**Employee Participants:**

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