

TREES

and Reliable
Electric Power



We prune to protect you,
our workers and your
electrical service.



Trees and power lines don't mix well, so Idaho Power operates a program to help keep our lines clear and maintain safe and reliable service for our customers.

When we clear lines in your neighborhood, you may have questions about the work we are doing. The following information explains how and why we prune — and sometimes remove — trees.

We Clear Our Lines to Protect You and our Line Crews



Falling trees and tree limbs can cause high-voltage wires to break or sag to the ground, in some cases causing life-threatening situations for motorists and pedestrians. Trees that touch lines can become energized and create a danger for people near the tree.

Overgrown tree limbs near power lines also pose a danger to children. An unsuspecting child climbing an overgrown tree can easily come in contact with a live power line.

We also want to protect our line crews, who often are exposed to dangerous situations when they are called out to repair a tree-related outage during stormy weather.

We Clear Our Lines to Protect Electrical Service

When tree branches come in contact with power lines, they often cause outages — especially in windy, stormy weather.

Idaho Power estimates that up to 10 percent of all electrical outages in the company's service area are caused by trees that fall onto or come into contact with power lines.

Some outages are momentary, causing digital clocks to blink or computers to lose data.

Others last longer, sometimes affecting service to hospitals, traffic signals, and homes.

With our tree pruning program, Idaho Power can reduce the number and length of tree-related outages.



LINE CLEARING 101

Idaho Power hires qualified line-clearing contractors to clear our lines. These crews create necessary clearances while considering each tree's species, size and natural shape. Our contractors use a pruning procedure called directional or natural pruning.

This method is recommended by the U.S. Forest Service and the International Society of Arboriculture.

Directional pruning allows us to train the tree to grow away from power lines by removing only those branches that could encroach on the wires. Pruning this way is better for the health of the tree and allows it to retain as much of its natural form as possible.

How Often Do We Clear Our Lines?

We clear the trees along our lines on a regular maintenance cycle. The shape, size and growth rate of trees affect how often they need pruning. Generally, our crews prune to create clearance to last for at least three years and to avoid problems with snow and ice in winter.

Removing Trees

Sometimes it's necessary to remove a tree that has become a hazard to the public or the electrical system. If a tree is classified as hazardous, Idaho Power will remove the tree and discuss replacement options with the property owner.

Wood larger than four inches in diameter will be cut into manageable sizes for the property owner and left behind. Small pieces of wood and branches are chipped at the job site and hauled away or left behind at the owner's request.



Directional Pruning Under Lines



Side Clearing Deciduous ("L" Cut)



Side Clearing Deciduous

SAFETY COMES FIRST

Never attempt to prune or remove a tree near our wires yourself. If you have a tree near one of our lines that you think needs to be pruned or removed, or if you notice a tree interfering with power lines, contact us online or call **208-388-2323** or **1-800-488-6151**.

LANDSCAPING AND POWER LINES

Trees and shrubs can add beauty and value to your property, but they can also interfere with power lines and equipment. When planting, choose a spot away from overhead and underground power lines. Also, avoid planting shrubs and vines close to pad-mounted transformers or power poles. Transformer maintenance work requires ten feet of clearance in front and two feet on the sides and back.



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Choosing and Planting Trees

If you're planting trees near power lines, some trees are better than others. That beautiful oak or spruce will do much better away from overhead lines. If your landscaping plans call for a tree near electric lines, choose a low-growing variety.

These trees are ideal for planting beneath power lines — most are available at your local nursery, along with other options:

- **White flowering dogwood**
- **Radiant crabapple**
- **Amanogawa cherry**
- **Thundercloud plum**

For more help choosing a tree, visit our website or your local nursery.

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