

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

CITY OF AUBURN
ELECTRIC, WATER & WASTEWATER SERVICES

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Chuck Knipe
Rich Wilson
Mike Zaruba
Dan Buman
Phil Shaw



GENERAL MANAGER

David A. Hunter Jr.

Phone: (402) 274-4981 Office
(402) 274-4991 Fax

Auburn City Code Section 2-215 states "...No Street Trees, other than those species classified as Small Trees, shall be planted under, or within ten lateral feet of, any overhead electrical, telephone or other utility wire or line, or over or within five lateral feet of, any underground water, sewer, electrical telephone or other utility wire, line, or main. No Street Tree shall be planted within ten feet of any fire plug ..."

Tree Trimming / Removal

Primary Lines (7.2 KV or higher)

All vegetation that is interfering with the wires and/or are within the power line right of way (streets, alleys and easements) will be removed. All dead trees within the easement will also be removed.

All vegetation in the right-of-way shall be cut to the ground except an occasional low-growing species such as dogwood or red bud, may be left for aesthetics, as long as they maintain minimum clearances of 15 feet from all wires and access is in no way impaired. Low growing species that require trimming to maintain clearance will be removed.

Trees outside the easement that require routine trimming will be cutback only. Trees that are outside the power line right of way will be cut back to maintain minimum clearance requirements for a period of 3 years of growth. Minimum clearance is 10 feet from all electrical wires.

Trees outside the easement that require routine trimming or that the growths prohibits 3 years of clearance will be removed by permission of the owner. If owner denies removal then additional trimming cost will be billed to the owner.

Trees outside the easement and considered to be endangering electric lines will be removed by permission of the owner. The owner will be notified via registered letter that potential for damage to electric lines exists. If owner denies removal then any damage to the electrical lines, lost revenue and restoration cost will be billed to the owner.

Dead trees outside the easement that are endangering electric lines will be removed by permission of the owner. The owner will be notified via registered letter that potential for damage to electric lines exists. If owner denies removal then any damage to the electrical lines, lost revenue and restoration cost will be billed to the owner.

Consideration of other situations is based on the extent of possible danger to municipal facilities and the likelihood of service interruption to other customers. Accessibility for workers and equipment shall also be considered in those circumstances where trees of questionable status are involved. The BPW will not shape trees unless the tree owner pays for the extra trimming in advance. The cost for extra trimming will be determined by BPW after estimates of the number of hours for completing the work.

BPW reserves the right to remove any tree that is on or in the right of way (streets, alleys and easements) that interferes with or could interfere with primary power lines either overhead or underground.

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Right-of-way in rural areas is 30 feet wide, i.e., 15 feet on either side of the centerline of the primary facilities, except as may be otherwise defined by either the Right-of-Way or by an on-site inspection. Any question as to a deviation from 30 feet will be resolved by the BPW.

Service Wires and Secondary (up to 480 Volts)

BPW will normally only trim tree limbs that are touching or rubbing a service or secondary line. The BPW will not shape trees unless the tree owner pays for the extra trimming in advance. The cost for extra trimming will be determined by BPW after estimates of the number of hours for completing the work. The customer will pay in advance tree trimming cost before any work is completed.

If a customer wants to remove a tree that only affects a service wire BPW will schedule to take the service wire down during normal working hours while the tree is being cut by the customer or his contractor.

In order to avoid charges the BPW must be notified one day in advance of work and by 1:00 p.m. that the customer is ready for the service to be put back up. Overtime work to put service wires back up will be charged to the property owner if BPW is notified after 1:00 p.m.