



## The Importance of Tree Maintenance

One of our primary jobs at TID is to provide safe, reliable electric service to residents and businesses throughout our 662 square-mile service area. TID is committed to protecting the safety of the public, its customers and employees. When trees or vegetation come in contact with power lines, they can cause power outages or fires. TID periodically trims or removes trees that are near power lines, even though TID is not responsible for trimming around customer's services. TID's tree trimming program has significantly reduced the number and duration of outages caused by trees. We hire professional tree trimmers who are qualified to work safely near energized power lines. TID trims for:

**Public Safety** - to prevent injury to people climbing or working in or near trees growing adjacent to power lines.

**Fire Safety** - trees in contact with high voltage power lines can act as an ignition source.

**Outage Reduction** - trees are responsible for the largest number of power outages in California.

### IT'S THE LAW

As a California Public Utility, TID is obligated to provide safe, reliable electric service. State law grants us permission and the authority to maintain our electric system, which includes clearing trees and vegetation that may encroach into power lines and equipment and pose a risk to public safety and service reliability.

### HOMEOWNER LIABILITY

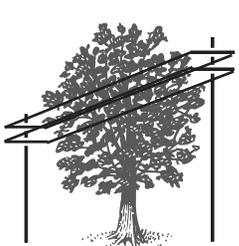
Failure to allow a utility company to comply with the law can result in liability to the homeowner for damages or injuries resulting from a vegetation hazard. Many insurance companies will not cover these types of damages if the policy owner has refused to allow the hazard to be eliminated.

### WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP PREVENT TREE RELATED OUTAGES, FIRES AND PUBLIC SAFETY HAZARDS?

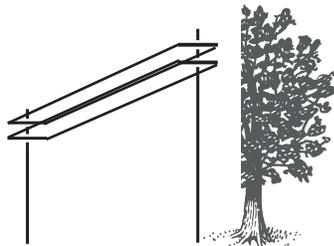
- Properly planted and maintained trees can improve air quality and beautify neighborhoods and communities. Plant the appropriate tree in the appropriate place. If you must plant near power lines, make sure to plant at least 10 feet from the nearest pole and that the maximum full grown tree height is at least 10 feet below the power line.
- Never climb trees near power lines. You could come in contact with a live power line and risk electrocution.
- Never trim trees near electric lines yourself. Call TID first to inspect the tree. TID may be able to perform the tree work at no cost to the property owner.
- Remember utilities also have underground lines and equipment. Trees should be planted at least 6 feet from underground services. If you are preparing to plant or landscape, always "call before you dig." Underground Service Alert (USA) can be reached at 1-800-227-2600.

### METHODS OF TREE TRIMMING

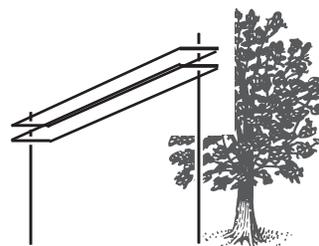
In order to maintain the integrity and natural shape of the tree, select and plant the appropriate size tree for the space. Local nurseries, home improvement stores and the Arbor Day Foundation can help you select the proper tree. If your trees are growing into or are too close to power lines, TID may be forced to trim the tree or in some cases remove it. These are some of the trimming methods utilized to save trees that have been planted too close to power lines.



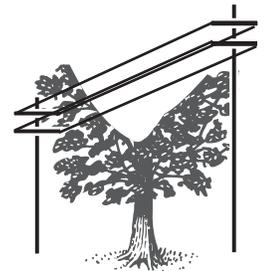
**Avoid Planting**



**Side Pruning**



**"L" Pruning**



**"V" Pruning**