

# VEGETATION MANAGEMENT FAQ

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## WHAT IS VEGETATION MANAGEMENT?

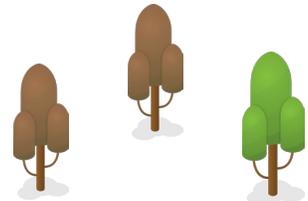
Vegetation management is a broad term that describes work Southern California Edison does to minimize the impact trees and vegetation have on providing safe and reliable electric service. It includes hazard tree assessments, tree pruning and removal, brush removal and weed abatement.

## WHY IS VEGETATION MANAGEMENT NECESSARY?

It is a matter of public safety and for the reliability of the power grid. California regulations require utilities to trim trees or vegetation so they don't grow into or fall into high-voltage power lines, which could not only cause a power outage, but could spark a fire or be a danger to the public.

## HOW MANY TREES ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?

SCE inspects approximately 900,000 trees annually, including 400,000 trees in high fire risk areas. The company prunes nearly 700,000 trees a year.



## WHAT ARE HAZARD TREES?

Hazard trees include dead or dying trees, dead parts of live trees or unstable live trees that are within striking distance of lines. Tall trees up to 200 feet from power lines also could pose a hazard because they could possibly fall into lines or their branches or leaves might possibly blow into lines.

## WHAT ARE THE NEW LAWS/GUIDELINES ON TREE CLEARANCE?

SCE adopted the California Public Utilities Commission's 2017 guidelines. In high fire risk areas, SCE is trimming 12 feet of clearance (at the time of trim) from a power line to ensure the minimum required clearance is never threatened.

## DOES SCE USE ARBORISTS? WHAT IS THEIR ROLE?

All of SCE's vegetation management personnel overseeing field operations are arborists certified by the International Society of Arboriculture. SCE's vegetation contractors are also experienced utility arborists and are supervised by ISA-certified arborists.

## HOW WILL I KNOW SCE IS GOING TO TRIM MY TREE?

After SCE completes its tree inspection, we will attempt to notify customers, via door hangers, at least 30 days before any work. We will attempt to again notify customers with a second door hanger 24-48 hours before trimming begins. If you have any questions or concerns, the door hanger has contact information for the inspector who did the tree inspection.



## WHAT IS “LIGHT PRUNING?”

Light pruning includes cutting into branches, limbs and/or trunks 7 inches or less in diameter. The pruning may be up to 6 feet beyond historical trims. The actual amount of trimming required to meet and maintain required safe clearance from wires is assessed on a case-by-case basis.

## WHAT IS “HEAVY PRUNING?”

Heavy pruning includes cutting into branches, limbs and/or trunks greater than 7 inches in diameter. This may also require trimming or removal of oak trees, conifers and historical trees. Special care will be taken before removing or cutting any protected or historical trees. All assessments are analyzed on a case-by-case basis.

## WHAT IF MY TREE NEEDS SIGNIFICANT TRIMMING?

If significant trimming needs to be done, SCE will attempt to contact the customer in person to determine a pruning plan. The amount of trimming required to meet and maintain required safe clearance from wires is assessed on a case-by-case basis. If the customer has any concerns or objections, they can call the number on the door hanger.

## WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A TREE MUST BE REMOVED?

SCE or an approved contractor will attempt to talk to the property owner to explain the tree removal process. SCE or an approved contractor will cut down the tree at no charge to the customer and the crew will dispose of the tree.

## WILL I HAVE TO PAY FOR SCE’S TREE TRIMMING OR REMOVAL?

No. All tree trimming and removal is done as part of SCE’s annual vegetation maintenance work with no additional cost to the customer.

## HOW CAN I IDENTIFY THE TREE TRIMMER AS A LEGITIMATE, AUTHORIZED SCE WORKER?

SCE employees have their SCE ID badge displayed for customers to see. All SCE contractors will have an SCE-approved contractor decal and an Edison logo on their truck. Be suspicious of anyone who arrives at your house without an appointment asking to check an appliance or wiring, or who tells you to leave your residence temporarily because of an electrical problem inside or outside your home.



If you have questions about SCE’s vegetation management activities or if you have any concerns about trees near SCE power lines, contact SCE Customer Support at **(800) 655-4555** or email [safetrees@sce.com](mailto:safetrees@sce.com).